Wednesday, January 15, 2014

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THE QUEBEC GOVERNMENT INSISTS IT WON'T BACK DOWN ON ITS VALUES CHARTER

PAGE 10

For the sake of our home and native land

Museum to dedicate 44K square feet to Canadian history PAGE 5

Robots take on drug cartels

U.S. Border Patrol is unveiling its latest technology in the underground war along the border with Mexico PAGE 6

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KIM'S CONVENIENCE COMING TO TOWN

Paul Sun-Hyung Lee, who plays Mr. Kim in Ins Choi's production Kim's Convenience mugs for the camera outside an Elgin Street bus shelter draped in posters advertising the upcoming NAC show. Lee handed out free packs of gum to passersby Tuesday to promote the show, which the Toronto Star gave four out of four stars in 2012. The show runs at the NAC from Jan. 22 to Feb. 8 and tells the story of Choi's experiences growing up in a Korean-Canadian family. JOE LOFARO/METRO

Couple's killing may be linked to organized crime: Police

Aylmer. Sûreté du Québec takes over investigation of murder of Aylmer couple

Quebec's provincial police force says that the grisly double murder of Aylmer residents Amanda Trottier and Travis Votour may be linked to organized crime. Sûreté du Québec has taken over the file and is investigating further.

"Because both murders might have a link with organized crime and when there is a possibility of a link with organized crime, the investigation is transferred to the Sûreté du Québec," said SQ Sgt. Claude Denis. "So the crime investigators at the Sûreté du Québec took charge of this investigation this morning."

The two Aylmer victims, both 23 years old, were found dead in their home at 158 de la Terrasse Eardley St. by Trottier's mother, Victoria Lebrasseur, and her husband on Jan. 6. Lebrasseur later described the grisly scene on a Facebook page with heart-wrenching messages. Lebrasseur's Facebook page has been active since the killings — everything from photos of her late daughter to messages like, "You are the best daughter a mother could ask for xoxo."

Lebrasseur also found her three-year-old granddaughter inside the house, unharmed. The little girl is now staying with family.

Police haven't released the cause of death and continue to investigate. No arrests have been made and police won't confirm if they have any suspects.

Anyone with information is urged to contact major crime investigators at 819 243-2346, ext. 6677 or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1 800 222-8477.

TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

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NEWS 1

Neighbours' opposition won't stop diplomatic construction

Stamp of approval. Ottawa committee OKs plan to rebuild Iraqi Embassy, build ambassador's home

LUCY SCHOLEY
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Iraq is one step closer to rebuilding its embassy and opening doors to a new home for its ambassador in Ottawa.

The city's planning committee approved two separate motions to demolish the Iraqi Embassy at 215 McLeod St. in Centretown and build a home at 36 Birch Ave. in Rockcliffe.

The two-storey, steel-frame embassy, which was built in 1957 and is not considered a heritage building, will be torn down and replaced with a four-storey structure designed like a temple.

Plans for the new, two-storey home in Rockcliffe include a swimming pool, underground parking and fence. It's slated for over five vacant lots.

Last year, city council voted against the Iraqi government's plan to tear down and rebuild a historic building on Lansdowne Road that was planned for the ambassador's home.

The Birch Avenue location is still located in the heritage conservation district of Rockcliffe, but it has approval from the heritage committee.

Julian Jacobs, the architect for both Iraq projects, said trees and hedges will make the Rockcliffe fence "almost invisible" and that the driveway entrance was the "superior" option.

Both projects have been forwarded to city council for a stamp of approval.

Opposition

Derek Taylor, who said he represents eight residents in the surrounding area, said the plan's driveway poses problems for an already "relatively busy" Birch Ave., which is on an OC Transpo bus route.

- He said the fence design is "not consistent" with the neighbourhood.

A rendering of the proposed Iraqi Embassy at 215 McLeod St. CITY OF OTTAWA

HIV sex charge is shakedown: Accused

A man accused of not disclosing his positive HIV status to a sexual partner testified Tuesday that he never lied about his condition and was shaken down for $500 by the complainant after having sex.

Elliott Youden, 32, who described himself to a jury as a familiar face in Ottawa's LGBT community, is charged with aggravated sexual assault following a sexual encounter he had with another man in July 2010. He has pleaded not guilty.

In his testimony Tuesday afternoon, Youden said he met the complainant through an online site for gay men. In an online exchange, Youden said he disclosed his medical condition to the man while inviting him to his apartment to give a massage.

"I told him that I was HIV positive and that he didn't need to worry much because you couldn't catch it from a massage," said Youden. "His response was that he was fine with it."

The complainant cannot be named due to a publication ban.

Ten days later, the complainant went to Youden's apartment for the massage. Soon after, Youden said he had sex twice with him and used his own condoms each time.

After, the complainant demanded $500, Youden said.

The court heard earlier Tuesday from the complainant that the two men had settled on $300 for sex, but Youden insisted there was no agreement for him to pay for a massage or sex.

"He said if I didn't give him the money, there would be consequences," said Youden. "I was just so taken aback by the entire situation that I just wanted to get him out of my apartment."

Youden then went looking for an ATM with the man at a nearby community centre on Elgin Street, where the accused made a run for it.

Closing arguments will begin Thursday.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

$30K worth of pot

Traffic stop turns into big drug bust for Brockville OPP

A traffic stop turned out to be a major drug bust for police in Brockville after they uncovered $30,000 worth of marijuana stashed inside a Dodge Ram truck that they pulled over Monday.

Leeds County Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police pulled the truck over around 1 p.m. and discovered the large quantity of pot and an undisclosed amount of cash.

Two men aged 34 and 36 years old from B.C. were arrested on charges of possession for the purpose of trafficking, and possession of property obtained by crime.

The two men were expected to appear in court for a bail hearing Tuesday.

TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

Dwyer Hill Road

Weapons charges laid in shooting incident

A 30-year-old Ottawa man was charged with a slew of offences after a man allegedly began shooting at passing vehicles on Dwyer Hill Road Sunday night.

Jesse Simpson was to appear in court Tuesday to face a number of weapons charges, including discharging a firearm with intent to wound, endangering life or preventing arrest, possessing a restricted firearm without a licence and mischief to property, among other counts.

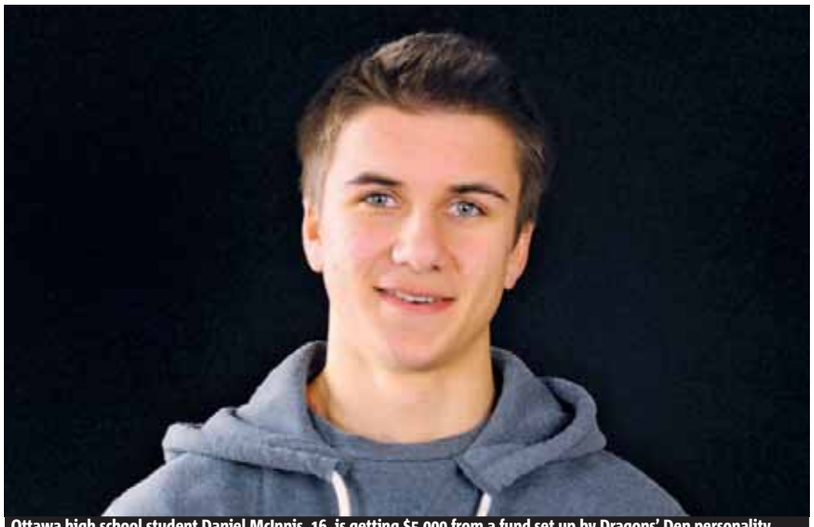
Anyone with information is asked to contact the Guns and Gangs Unit at 613-236-1222, ext. 5050, or Crime Stoppers at 613-233-8477 (TIPS), or toll free at 1-800-222-8477.

METRO

Rock Opera

Ready for RENT!

Carleton's Sock 'n' Buskin Theatre Company will stage the rock opera RENT! to kick off its 70th anniversary season. It will run Jan. 16-18 and Jan. 23-25, at the Kailash Mital Theatre, Southam Hall, Carleton University, 8:00 p.m. Tickets are $10 for students/seniors and $15 general. Tickets are available through snbreservations@gmail.com. METRO



Ottawa high school student Daniel McInnis, 16, is getting $5,000 from a fund set up by Dragons' Den personality Kevin O'Leary to give a boost to young entrepreneurs. CONTRIBUTED

Local teen among 10 young dragons

Entrepreneur fund. High school student to receive grant from Dragons' Den tycoon

SEAN MCKIBBON
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A 16-year-old Ottawa high school student who invented a better hockey helmet to reduce concussions is among 10 Canadian youth getting money from a fund set up by Dragons' Den personality Kevin O'Leary to give a boost to young entrepreneurs.

"It really means a lot to me that they liked what I'm doing," said Daniel McInnis, a Grade 11 St. Francis Xavier student who won a Canadian Science fair in 2011 with his groundbreaking sports gear, which dramatically reduces G-forces suffered in collisions in comparison to current helmets. He has a company, a Canadian patent and a U.S. patent pending, and says the $5,000 prize from the Future Dragon Fund will help him take the next step in bringing his helmet to market.

"It will help me with a second round of helmet prototypes and more materials for testing and then taking a prototype to manufacturers to get some sort of licensing deal," he said in a phone interview with Metro. McInnis also has plans to start a second company to make a cheap 3D scanner for medical purposes that he said could help healthcare systems in impoverished nations. He already made a similar scanner over the summer during a job with local tech firm Fidus Systems, he said. "I think I can get it under about $200."

Asked if he thought the process for entering the young dragon contest was as stressful as the actual Dragon's Den, he said no, but added he might just be paying O'Leary a visit on the actual show in the near future.

Humble dragon

"It really means a lot to me that they liked what I'm doing."

St. Francis Xavier student Daniel McInnis will receive $5,000 from the Future Dragon Fund to invest in his business.

Feds ordered to produce residential school info

An Ontario judge has ordered the federal government to produce documents that survivors of a notorious residential school say are crucial to their compensation claims.

The survivors accused Ottawa of hampering their bid for financial redress by hiding documentary evidence from a provincial police investigation into St. Anne's in Fort Albany.

Hundreds of aboriginal children from remote James Bay communities were sent to St. Anne's from 1904 to 1976.

The police probe in the 1990s turned up evidence of horrific abuse, including use of an electric chair, and led to criminal convictions.

A government lawyer had said Ottawa received the documents from police on an undertaking they would not be passed on to anyone.

But Ontario Superior Court Judge Paul Perell says in a decision released Tuesday that the government misinterpreted its disclosure obligations and should turn over the documents to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

"The documents speak to the sexual and physical abuse suffered by students at St. Anne's Residential School," Perell wrote.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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There's a stat for that. Open data comes to Ottawa

The Ontario Liberals opened the doors to transparency talks in Ottawa Tuesday afternoon.

The new Open Government project, announced in October, is the Liberals' plan to release large amounts of data to the public. The University of Ottawa was the latest stop in a series of province-wide roundtable discussions.

The raw data ranges from available parking in a city to top baby names and marriage registrations. There's a catalogue of 172 data sets available online now and the public will be able to vote on which set they want to access next.

"The experience of other governments is they pick whatever's the least controversial and the easiest," said John Milloy, the Minister of Government Services. "We're going to go a different route and we're going to start with what's the most valuable to researchers, to the private sector and to journalists."

Ottawans talk transparency and open data in a roundtable chat at the U of O, Tuesday. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

Jeannette Hatherill, the scholarly communications librarian at Ottawa University, attended Tuesday's talks because she's in the business of providing information.

"We're no longer in an era of information scarcity — we have too much of it," she said. "So my job … is to figure out how to help our researchers or our students manage this information overload."

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

Orleans. New subdivision could hike LRT ridership

An artist's rendering of a future LRT station. CONTRIBUTED

A new subdivision in Orleans could usher in a slew of transit riders, according to a transportation consultant.

Ron Jack, the vice-president of engineering firm Delcan — hired by the subdivision developer Minto — said he estimates about 45 per cent of the future residents at 850 Champlain St. will use the planned Light Rail Transit (LRT) system.

Jack used his ridership statistics to pitch the project to Ottawa's planning committee meeting Tuesday morning. The planned subdivision includes 472 residential units — in apartment buildings — and eight leasable office buildings to be built over 20 years.

Lise Picknell, who lives on the street, said she was worried about the traffic flow with the new subdivision.

"It's actually very dangerous to back up right now," she said.

While Orleans Coun. Bob Monette praised the developers for being flexible, he said he would have preferred to see a proposal that brought in more employment opportunities for the district.

"Is this the best proposal? No," said Monette, but added that Orleans has to "move forward."

This project is part of the Orleans Town Centre and it has an employment target of 3,000 jobs, according to the project's draft proposal.

Peter Hume, the chair of the planning committee, said this project is the first subdivision draft proposal since 2007.

The project will go to city council for review.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

A worker installs solar panels on one of Ottawa Renewable Energy Co-op's rooftop solar panel projects. COURTESY GUILLAUME BOUCHARD

For education's sake, let the sunshine in!

Solar energy. Deal between high school and energy co-op means revenue and teaching tool

TREVOR GREENWAY
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Students at Samuel-Genest Catholic High School will learn firsthand what it takes to create electricity when the Ottawa Renewable Energy Co-op (OREC) installs a series of solar panels on the rooftop of the school.

Science teacher Josée Batista can't wait to start using the renewable energy system in her classes — especially the electricity portion of her Grade 9 class.

"There is a lot of talk about electricity consumption, how do we produce electricity, renewable energy, non-renewable energy and students will be able to use this data, because there will be monitors in the hallway," said Batista.

"I am for sure going to be using the data."

The school agreed to rent the roof to OREC for $7,500 a year for the next 20 years, but more than the money is the educational opportunity students at the school will be offered.

Batista said she expects the rooftop project to engage the students in understanding what kind of impact they can have on energy consumption.

"I think it's important for them to know that it is not easy producing electricity, but we depend on it a lot," Batista said. "But there are ways of reducing our consumption by raising awareness and making them realize that a 45-minute shower is not the idea."

OREC operations manager Janice Ashworth said the system will produce 91,500-kilowatt-hours per year. That's enough energy to power a small community street for a year.

Ashworth said the project will generate about $65,000 of revenue every year and the energy created will go directly to powering the community surrounding the school.

"For us, it's a perfect marriage as well, because a good chunk of our mandate and our motivation to create this cooperative was to provide that awareness opportunity to engage people in Ottawa in their renewable energy future," said Ashworth, adding that OREC has six other solar rooftop projects across the city.

OREC events

- **Samuel-Genest Solar Project Launch.** All are invited to learn about, and become involved in, the 75kW solar project being installed on the roof of the school. Jan. 16, 7-8:30 p.m., 704 Carsons Rd, Samuel-Genest School, Library
- **Powering Up Against Climate Change.** At this event you will hear from graduates of Al Gore's Climate Change Reality Course; meet OREC members, hear how to join Ottawa's clean energy movement; and enjoy a bowl of homemade harvest soup. Jan. 23, 7-9 p.m., HUB Ottawa, 71 Bank St, 6th Floor

History museum gearing up for largest exhibit in Canadian history

Patricia Lynch, media relations manager at the Canadian Museum of History, shows off Face to Face: The Canadian Personalities Hall, which features profiles of 27 Canadians who have made significant contributions to the country's development. She is urging the public to see the exhibit, as it will permanently close Feb. 2 to make way for the new Canadian History Hall, the biggest permanent exhibit in the country's history. TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

History Hall. New exhibit will take up about half the space at former Museum of Civilization

TREVOR GREENWAY
trevor.greenway@metronews.ca

Twenty-seven famous Canadian faces will slowly disappear from The Canadian Personalities Hall at the Museum of History in early February, as the exhibit transforms into the "largest and most comprehensive permanent exhibit" in the country's history.

Exhibits featuring prominent Canadians like politician Thomas D'Arcy McGee, former Saskatchewan premiere and NDP leader Tommy Douglas and Canada's first prime minister Sir John A. Macdonald will be packed up and readied for the new 44,000 square foot Canadian History Hall — everything from videos, audio clips, artifacts and objects. The new hall will take up about half the exhibit space at the history museum, formerly the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

Museum spokesperson Patricia Lynch said most of the artifacts will be incorporated in the new exhibit, but added that the public only has a few weeks left to see the current presentations as they have been since 2007. She urges anyone who hasn't yet toured the exhibit to do so, as it puts a personality to Canada's history.

"It's not about the 27 most famous Canadians, it's not that at all," said Lynch.

"It's people who have helped in some way to fashion the country or build the country or who have had some part in developing Canada."

Face to Face: The Canadian Personalities Hall

"It's not about the 27 most famous Canadians ... It's people ... who have had some part in developing Canada." Patricia Lynch, museum spokesperson

Awaiting transformation

The exhibit closes its doors Feb. 2 with major renovation work and construction for the new Canadian History Hall extending until 2017.

- The new hall is set to open its doors July 1, 2017 to coincide with Canada's 150th birthday.

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Stationery. Clement pays back taxpayers for second set of fancy business cards

Among Tony Clement's stack of Christmas bills this year was one to pay taxpayers back for a second set of gold-embossed business cards that broke government rules.

Clement, the Treasury Board president, used his personal credit card last week to reimburse his department $195.98 for cards that were ordered back in 2011, when he first took the cabinet post.

The Jan. 8 payment was in addition to the $434 he reimbursed taxpayers last month for another set of forbidden gold-embossed cards.

Clement has now paid back $630 for improper stationery, which he says was ordered in error by a staff member.

Each set of his cards featured the Arms of Canada decorated with gold leaf, a costly stationery option that has been banned across government since 1994.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Political finance probe. Firm owned by MP Del Mastro's cousin searched

Two people who contributed to MP Dean Del Mastro's 2008 election campaign told investigators they were reimbursed at a profit by a company owned by the MP's cousin, court documents show.

The donations were part of an alleged scheme to skirt political financing rules by concealing the fact they were made by a corporate donor.

The evidence forms part of an ongoing investigation by the Office of the Commissioner of Canada Elections into the activities of Deltro Electric Inc. and its president, David Del Mastro.

Former Conservative MP Dean Del Mastro, who now sits as an Independent, is not a subject of the investigation. No charges have been laid in the case, and the allegations have not been tested in court.

Heavily redacted court documents related to a search warrant request were released this week. Investigators, backed by a technical unit of the RCMP, searched the offices of Deltro in Mississauga, Ont., last fall.

In addition to receiving a $50 bonus with the reimbursement, those who allegedly participated in the scheme could also apply for a tax credit. Investigators estimated the credit at $558 per person.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

This July 8, 2004, photo shows a Mexican federal agent crawling through a hidden tunnel, presumably used to transport drugs from Mexico to the U.S. The job of searching these networks can be dangerous, so the U.S. Border Patrol is unveiling its latest technology in the underground war — a wireless, camera-equipped robot that can do the job in a fraction of the time. DAVID MAUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Mexican drug tunnels and the robots that patrol them

U.S. border security. With cartels turning to subterranean methods to smuggle drugs into the U.S., officials turn to technology to stop them

As U.S. border security has tightened, drug cartels have turned to tunnelling beneath the ground to avoid detection.

Nearly 170 tunnels have been found nationwide since 1990, most along the Arizona and California border with Mexico. The job of searching these networks can be dangerous, so the U.S. Border Patrol is unveiling its latest technology in the underground war — a wireless, camera-equipped robot that can do the job in a fraction of the time.

Tunnel construction ranges from extremely rudimentary to very sophisticated, with lights, supports and ventilation. They can range from a few feet to nearly a kilometre long.

So-called tunnel robots have been in use by Border Patrol for several years. They can safely navigate through corrugated pipes, tunnels, and drainage systems while an agent controls the device from the surface, seeing what the robot sees on a handheld screen. The robots are used, in part, as a safety measure to keep agents out of harm's way as many tunnels can be poorly built and possibly collapse and lack proper ventilation.

They also can navigate an underground labyrinth in a fraction of the time it would take an agent to explore the tunnel. Some of the newer robots, which weigh about 5.5 kilograms and can navigate through passageways that are only several feet wide, are being deployed this year across southern Arizona and California. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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DynaMITE

Violence in Mexico

Soldiers' confrontation with civilians turns deadly

Mexican soldiers and federal police kept a tense standoff with vigilantes Tuesday after a new government campaign to stop violence in western Michoacan state turned bloody.

There were widely varying reports of casualties; journalists saw the bodies of two men reportedly killed in a clash that began late Monday between soldiers and townspeople in Antunez and spoke with the family of a third man that said he also died in the incident. No women or children died, contrary to reports by the spokesman for one of "self-defence" groups that have sprung up over the past year to challenge a drug cartel.

The clash occurred as the government sent more troops to the so-called Tierra Caliente, where the vigilantes have been fighting the Knights Templar cartel. The government on Monday had called on the self-defence groups to disarm.

By Tuesday afternoon, vigilantes blocked roads leading into towns under their control, and federal police manned their own roadblocks outside. One federal officer who was not authorized to speak to the press said they had no orders to disarm anyone, or to try to take vigilante-held towns.

The deadly confrontation in Antunez started late Monday after townspeople were called to meet a convoy of soldiers, who they were told were coming to disarm the self-defence group. Witnesses said the civilian group did not carry guns, but as they blocked the military convoy, some soldiers fired into the crowd.

"The army is made of people without values or ethics," self-defence group spokesman Estanislao Beltran said. "The military has no reason to shoot the people."

Beltran said the confrontation was with about 60-80 soldiers. There were at least as many civilians, according to witnesses.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blind drunk? That sums it up, researchers say

Hermann Grid.
Optical illusion used as part of alcohol impairment research

Ever described someone as "blind drunk"? If so, it seems you were right.

A new study by experts at Western University in London, Ont., shows alcohol really does have an effect on vision.

Using a 144-year-old optical illusion, London researchers have determined that drinking the legal limit of alcohol can impair aspects of vision by 30 per cent.

Yes, the legal limit. Not beyond it.

In findings published in the journal Perception, Kevin Johnston and Brian Timney from the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry and Western's social science faculty have shown that alcohol greatly affects the ability to adjust vision for brightness and contrast.

That could be a problem when driving at twilight, as the sun dips below the horizon.

"We obviously know that alcohol impairs our decision making and motor skills, but until now, we did not know how alcohol affects our vision," says Johnston, a research scientist at the department of physiology and pharmacology's Laboratory for Neural Circuits and Behaviour.

Johnston and Timney used the Hermann Grid, an optical illusion described by Ludimar Hermann in 1870, to understand how alcohol affects the perception of contrast.

"The Hermann Grid is basically a grid of black squares on a white background. You see ghost-like dark spots at the intersections of the grid, but they are not actually there," explains Johnston. "It's the way our visual system processes contrast or brightness differences that creates this illusion."

MIKE DONACHIE/METRO IN LONDON

A new study shows alcohol really does have an effect on vision.
GETTY IMAGES

Health. New vaccine for rotavirus seems safer, less risk of bowel issues

Newer vaccines against rotavirus, a severe diarrheal disease in children, slightly raise the risk of a rare bowel problem that doomed an earlier vaccine, new studies show. But researchers say the modern vaccines are much safer and well worth this very small risk.

Rotavirus kills more than 400,000 young children a year, mostly in poor countries. In the United States, good medical care usually keeps it from being fatal, but it used to cause as many as 1 in 10 hospitalizations of young kids.

The first rotavirus vaccine came out in 1998 but was withdrawn a year later after it was linked to intussusception, a rare and serious twisted bowel condition. Doctors hoped that two newer versions — Merck's RotaTeq and GlaxoSmithKline's Rotarix, which came out in 2006 and 2008 — would avoid that problem.

Research in other countries suggests that some risk persists, though. Two large studies out Tuesday are the first to look at this in the U.S. The studies, sponsored by the U.S. federal government, are being presented at a health conference and were published online by the New England Journal of Medicine.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Worth using

- Dr. Frank DeStefano, head of the CDC's Immunization Safety Office, and a leader of that agency's study, said it's not known how the vaccines might raise the risk of the bowel problem, but agreed the new vaccines are well worth using.

Gun violence

Retired cop held without bail in U.S. movie theatre shooting

A retired police captain is being held without bail after fatally shooting a man who was texting in a Florida movie theatre.

On Tuesday, a judge ordered Curtis Reeves, 71, held without bond on a charge of second-degree murder in the death of 43-year-old Chad Oulson on Monday.

Pasco County Sheriff's officials said the shooting happened when Reeves asked Oulson to stop texting at the theatre.

Reeves and his wife were sitting behind Oulson and his wife. Oulson told Reeves he was texting with his 3-year-old daughter, Cummings said.

"He must have just snapped," neighbour Joe D'Andrea said of Reeves, describing him as friendly, "stand-up" guy. "I'm trying to put all of this together."

Reeves' personnel files from the police department show he led other agencies in gun safety training and received numerous letters of commendation for his leadership.

Still, Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco said Tuesday: "It didn't matter what he had done previously in his life. You don't shoot someone over a texting incident."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nunavik, A place to learn

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Please bring your **resume** to the Information Session or Career Day of your choice.

If you cannot attend in person, we encourage you to send your resume, by **January 17, 2014,** to **Nunavik@kativik.qc.ca** and indicate **the subject for which you are applying in the subject line of your e-mail.**

To avoid duplication, we ask that candidates submit only one resume.

We thank all applicants for their interest, but only candidates considered for hiring will be contacted. No phone calls, please.

Commission Scolaire Kativik School Board
www.kativik.qc.ca

French pres. angry over tabloid story

Overshadowed by scandal. Hollande announced economic measures to encourage hiring Tuesday

Under pressure over a magazine report that he is having a secret affair with an actress, French President Francois Hollande conceded Tuesday he is going through "painful moments" with his companion but otherwise sidestepped specifics on his personal life.

Hollande's partner, journalist Valerie Trierweiler, has been hospitalized since Friday, when Closer published photos it said proved Hollande's liaison. Speaking at a major news conference, Hollande said Trierweiler "is resting" but insisted that the venue in front of hundreds of reporters was "neither the place nor the moment" to discuss the issue.

The report in the magazine Closer showed photos of a man the magazine identified as Hollande wearing a motorcycle helmet and being ferried on the back of a small scooter to an alleged tryst with film actress Julie Gayet.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Everyone in his or her personal life can go through ordeals — that's the case with us."

French President Francois Hollande

Referendum: Egyptians vote on a new constitution

An Egyptian man flashes the victory sign as he lines up to vote in the country's constitutional referendum in Cairo on Tuesday. Upbeat and resentful of the Muslim Brotherhood, Egyptians voted on a new constitution in a referendum that will pave the way for a likely presidential run by the nation's top general Abdul-Fattah el-Sisi, months after he ousted Islamist president Mohammed Morsi. KHALIL HAMRA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Italy

Anti-immigrant party under fire

The newspaper of Italy's anti-immigrant Northern League party has come under fire for a new feature listing the daily whereabouts of the country's first black Cabinet minister. Ever since her appointment in April, Cécile Kyenge has faced racist taunts from Northern League politicians and activists.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nigeria

New anti-gay law

First the police targeted the gay men, then tortured them into naming dozens of others who now are being hunted down, human rights activists said Tuesday, warning that such persecution will rise under a new Nigerian law. The men's alleged crime? Belonging to a gay organization. The punishment? Up to 10 years in jail under the Same Sex Marriage Prohibition Act, which has elicited international condemnation for criminalizing gay marriage, organizations and anyone working with them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Sudan. Women, kids drown trying to flee

A boat carrying mostly women and children desperately fleeing heavy violence in South Sudan sank while crossing the Nile River, killing some 200 people, a military official said Tuesday, as fighting between rebels and government forces moved closer to the capital.

Warfare in the world's newest state has displaced more than 400,000 people since mid-December, with the front lines constantly shifting as loyalist troops and renegade forces gain and lose territory in battles often waged along ethnic lines.

Heavy fighting erupted in Malakal, the capital of oil-producing Upper Nile state, which renegade forces briefly held before government troops retook it. The fighting began early Tuesday morning in the vicinity of the United Nations base in Malakal, with combatants using heavy machine-guns and tanks, U.N. spokesman Martin Nesirky said at U.N. headquarters in New York.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shoe factory fire. At least 16 killed in East China

A fire at a shoe factory in eastern China on Tuesday killed at least 16 people, state media reported.

The blaze broke out at the Dadong factory in the city of Wenling in Zhejiang province, state broadcaster CCTV said. Firefighters put it out about three hours later and rescued more than 20 people, it said. The report didn't say how the fire started. Such factories often contain large amounts of adhesives and other flammable chemicals.

China suffers frequent industrial accidents. Last June, 121 people were killed in a poultry plant fire in the country's northeast. That fire was triggered by a short circuit, but investigators found the plant's safety exits were blocked, trapping workers inside.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Who's my daddy, asks daughter in sperm scandal

University of Utah. Hotline received 17 calls about possible tampering with semen at clinic once operated by faculty members

A 1998 booking photo of Thomas Ray Lippert provided by Salt Lake County Jail. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The suspect is dead, the fertility clinic where he reportedly replaced a customer's sperm with his own no longer operates, and the clinic left no records that might show the extent of the scandal, the University of Utah said Tuesday.

Officials say they may never get to the bottom of a complaint that a convicted felon working at the clinic two decades ago switched his sperm, leaving a now 21-year-old woman asking, "Who am I?"

The mix-up happened in 1991, the clinic shut down the following year and the suspect died in 1999.

The mother of the 21-year-old woman, Pamela Branum, has said she and her husband discovered a genetic mismatch in their daughter and were able to trace her lineage with help from relatives of the now-deceased fertility clinic worker, Thomas Ray Lippert.

Branum said she believes the university hasn't conducted a serious investigation and is trying to conceal the possibility of a wider scandal.

"I thought I was this person (of) my mom and my dad," the family's daughter told CBS affiliate KUTV. "Now, my dad is not my biological father. Who am I?"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Australians keep their cool in heat wave

People jump into the sea to keep cool at St Kilda Beach on Tuesday in Melbourne, Australia. Temperatures are expected to reach over 40 C in parts of Victoria over the next four days. CRAIG SILLITOE/GETTY IMAGES

Topless fashion shoot draws $1M suit

A fashion photographer is facing a lawsuit for taking pictures of a topless model on the observation deck of the Empire State Building.

The owners of the New York City landmark filed a $1.1 million US lawsuit against Allen Henson for a set of photos he took in August.

According court papers filed Monday, Henson didn't apply for permission and never notified the building about his plans for the photo shoot. Building representatives called it objectionable and inappropriate because the observation deck is a family and tourist attraction.

Henson says the view from atop the building is so breathtaking he didn't think anyone noticed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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China

Doctor gets death for selling babies

A Chinese court on Tuesday convicted a doctor of baby trafficking and sentenced her to death with a two-year reprieve, after she admitted that she stole babies from the hospital where she worked and sold them.

Zhang Shuxia, an obstetrician, told parents their newborns had congenital problems and persuaded them to give them up, according to a court in Shaanxi. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Breaking Bad

Meth dealers mimic TV show

Kevin Abar, assistant special agent in charge of Home Security Investigations in New Mexico, says distributors are selling blue-tinted meth in the Four Corners — mirroring the hit drama Breaking Bad. Abar says tinting meth is a branding technique but noted the blue meth is making people sick. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quebec government settles in for lengthy charter fight

Entrenched. Party is ready to trumpet ban on religious symbols if election is called

Bernard Drainville, Quebec Minister responsible for Democratic Institutions and Active Citizenship, listens during a legislature committee studying the proposed charter on Tuesday in Quebec City. JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Quebec government insists it won't back down on its values charter and is ready to make it an election issue if need be.

Yet the minister responsible for the proposed legislation said Tuesday that such a scenario would clearly be the fault of the two main opposition parties.

Bernard Drainville said the Liberals and the Coalition for Quebec's Future have made it clear they will vote against the provincial budget, which is expected in a few months.

That would topple the Parti Quebecois minority government and trigger a provincewide vote, which would likely take place before the charter is voted on.

"That would effectively mean the CAQ (the Coalition) and the Liberals would be making the charter an election issue," Drainville told reporters as public hearings began in Quebec City on the divisive Bill 60.

The bill would forbid public employees from wearing visible religious symbols including hijabs, turbans, kippas and large crucifixes.

Both Drainville and Premier Pauline Marois reiterated Tuesday the government will not be swayed.

Banning "overt religious signs is something we're sticking to," Marois said in Montreal. "It's a basic part of the project."

Drainville said the religious neutrality of the state must be "visible, apparent and concrete."

While Drainville never uses the word "firing," the consequences for employees who flout the law are clear.

"If a government worker considers the wearing of religious signs during work hours to be more important than the religious neutrality of the state and the respect for law, it will be their choice," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Are you living with allergic rhinitis?

If you are, an opportunity is now available to be part of a clinical research study.

Allergic rhinitis is a common reaction to allergens like dust mites. It can cause a number of annoying symptoms like itchy or runny nose, sneezing, irritated eyes, ears and sinuses. If you are one of the many people who live with allergic rhinitis, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical study of a new investigational therapy.

To be eligible for this study, a participant must:

- Be between the ages of 18 and 55
- Be generally healthy
- Have a history of persistent or intermittent allergic rhinitis and a positive allergy test to dust mites or other defined allergens

Women who are capable of becoming pregnant are not eligible for this study. People who smoke will also be excluded.

Qualified participants will receive study drug or placebo (an inactive substance) and study-related care at no cost. You will also be compensated for your travel expenses.

If you or someone you know has allergic rhinitis and would like more information about this study contact: Ottawa Allergy Research, Ottawa ON – 613-725-2102 Ext 248

Flooding cost a ton, but is deficit really a disaster?

Residents wade through floodwaters in Calgary on June 24, 2013. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Despite the death-to-the-deficit mantra being chanted by Conservative devotees, some economists say there is no real pressing need to balance the books by 2015 — just in time for the next election.

Tory junior finance minister Kevin Sorenson invoked the "dire consequences" that befell bankrupt Detroit and struggling Greece in a speech Tuesday to the Economic Club of Canada.

"Balancing our books, as all business leaders know, gives us greater flexibility to respond to the unforeseen," Sorenson said.

Indeed, even the best-laid fiscal plans can go astray.

Canada's budget watchdog noted Tuesday that the unexpected cost of dealing with recent natural disasters helped push up federal spending in the first six months of the current fiscal year than the same period a year ago.

Major floods and rain storms in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba between 2010 and 2013 have created an estimated $4.1-billion liability that may rise further if Environment Canada's predictions of increased precipitation rates prove correct, the parliamentary budget office said in its latest report.

"As a former farmer, let me tell you, there's no telling what the next season has in store," Sorenson said in his speech. "We face an uncertain and fragile global economy."

But according to senior economist David MacDonald of the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, "unbelievably" low interest rates and a healthy appetite for government bonds means the cost of servicing the debt is at an all-time low.

"You can flow 20-year bonds at the cost of inflation," he said. "It's incredible."

There's still a lot of slack in the economy, MacDonald said. If anyone's in a position to keep borrowing to drive growth, it's Ottawa.

"There is in fact no pressing need at all to balance the budget," said MacDonald. "This is not an economic problem; it's a political problem." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Multiple subscriptions

We are still *very* attached to TV

The rumours of rampant cord-cutting have been exaggerated.

More than 2.5 million Canadian households will have multiple TV subscriptions, paying for TV through a traditional provider and at least one other online TV service, according to a Deloitte study released Tuesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Global vehicle market

GM speeds ahead, but likely can't lap Toyota in sales

General Motors sold 9.71 million cars and trucks last year, probably not enough to beat out Toyota for the global sales crown, but about 200,000 better than Volkswagen.

Toyota, the sales champion in 2012, will report its sales next week. It only needs to show a little growth to beat GM again.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nova Scotia

Brewing up rules for making beer, wine in stores

Consultations to develop regulations that would allow people in Nova Scotia to make wine or beer in stores will start this week.

The provincial government says it will work with the beer brewing and winemaking industry to develop regulations and standards that are expected to be introduced in the next legislative session.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
91.34¢ (-0.86¢)

TSX
13,692.38 (+ 10.90)

OIL
$92.59 US (+ $0.79)

GOLD
$1,245.40 US (-$5.70)

Natural gas: $4.36 US (+$0.05)
Dow Jones: 16,373.86 (+ 115.92)

The usual suspects: Wireless auction no serious threat to Big 3

Experts. Bidding for the 700 megahertz waves shouldn't topple Bell, Rogers and Telus

Bidding for a coveted piece of Canada's wireless market started Tuesday.

Experts say the 700 megahertz waves up for auction are particularly valuable because they allow cellphone signals to travel longer distances and penetrate buildings and tunnels where calls are often dropped.

The signal also requires fewer cellphone towers to provide coverage in rural areas.

Ten players are in the game, including Canada's big three telecom companies: Bell, Rogers and Telus.

Among regional bidders are Quebecor's Vidéotron in Quebec, MTS Inc. in Manitoba, Saskatchewan Telecommunications and Bragg Communications, which operates EastLink in Atlantic Canada. But Wind Mobile's parent, Globalive Communications, pulled out Monday due to a lack of funds.

It's expected to be weeks before Industry Canada discloses who won licences and how much they paid for them.

The previous auction in 2008 for different spectrum raised $4.3 billion and ushered in a host of new players. But experts say lack of new competition means this auction won't likely raise as much money as expected, even though it's a more valuable piece of spectrum.

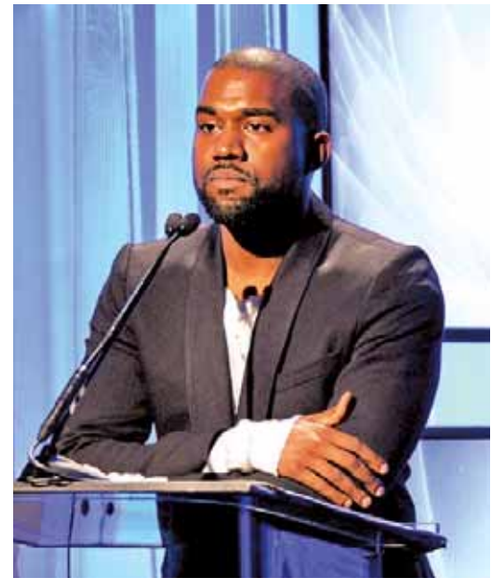
Hopes for foreign competitors to shake up the industry were dashed last fall when U.S. giant Verizon dropped the idea of expanding into Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fourth player?

The feds say they want a fourth national player in every region of the country to give consumers more choice and to help lower fees.

- A Scotiabank analyst said Tuesday regional telecom operator Quebecor may be interested in acquiring Mobilicity, a small and financially struggling wireless company that has been trying to find a buyer. Analyst Jeff Fan said Quebecor could potentially become a "solution to the government's fourth operator objective in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario."



Yo, Coinye, I'm not gonna let you finish

Hip hop star Kanye West filed a lawsuit Tuesday in federal court to stop production of "Coinye West" bitcoins, which he says unjustly cash in on his fame. West's lawsuit seeks to stop companies and individuals that have not yet been identified from exchanging the digital currency, and also seeks unspecified damages for hurting West's reputation. As of Tuesday, the Coinye website stated, "Coinye is dead. You win, Kanye." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Not so cute and cuddly. Beanie Babies creator gets probation for tax evasion

The billionaire businessman behind Beanie Babies was sentenced Tuesday to two years of probation, but no prison time, for not paying taxes on millions of dollars stashed in Swiss bank accounts, with the judge praising the toy magnate for his charity work.

H. Ty Warner, 69, issued a sombre but composed apology before being sentenced in Chicago federal court, saying he felt "shame and embarrassment." He pleaded guilty last year to a single count of tax evasion for not paying taxes on $25 million US in income he had hidden.

Warren could have been sentenced to up to five years in prison, and a prosecutor asked U.S. District Judge Charles Kocoras on Tuesday to impose at least a year behind bars.

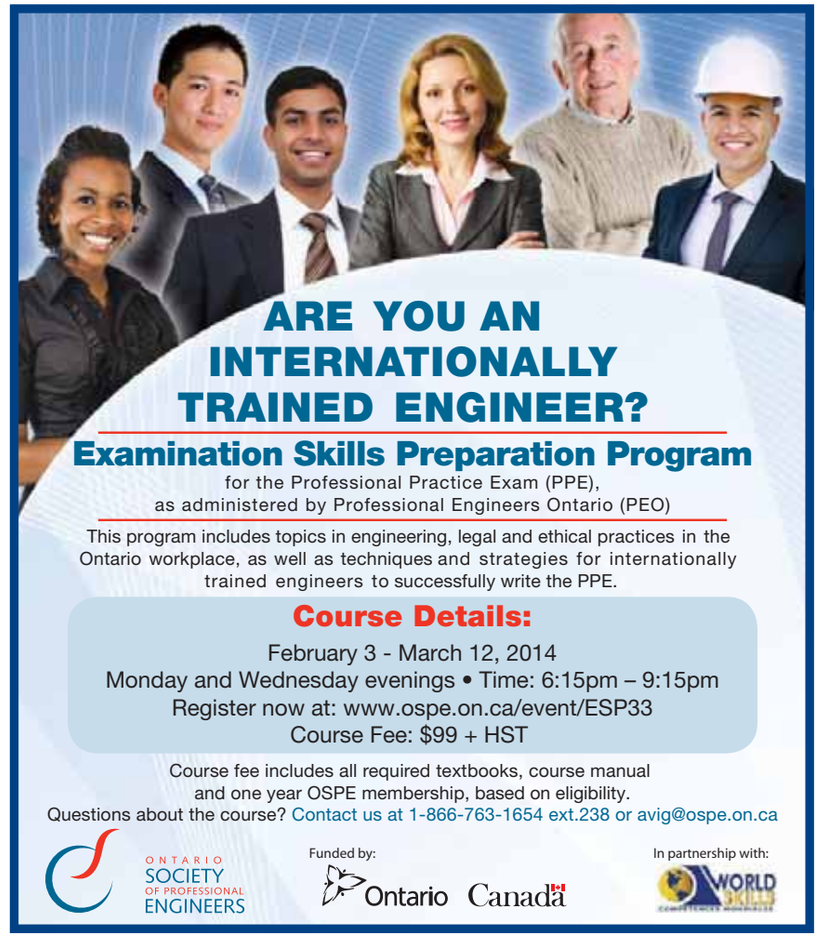
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Slap on the wrist?

"(Without prison time), tax evasion becomes little more than a bad investment."

Prosecutor Michelle Petersen told the judge that Warner's charity work — however laudable — should not keep him out of prison.

H. Ty Warner, the billionaire who created Beanie Babies, gets into a car in Chicago on Tuesday after being sentenced. ANDREW A. NELLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

The Mona Lisa?

Fuhgeddaboudit! The ideal woman, according to the dating site Plenty of Fish, is: "A 25-year-old Catholic woman who owns a dog, describes herself as thin, and drinks alcohol three times a week."

This paragon of femininity is likely to receive more messages than any other woman.

I don't know about you, but she sounds a little high-maintenance to me. A potential three hangovers a week when she stays in bed and you have to walk the stupid dog ... and then you're expected to go to church on Sunday while she tends to her guilty conscience.

Oh, and she's smarter than you are, as somehow she already has a graduate degree at 25.

Unlike previous ideals such as Mona and Helen of Troy, this vision of female perfection is not the obsession of some mooning poet with bad facial hair, but grounded in science: a just-released survey of 81,000 online anglers at Plenty of Fish.

So, as you're (literally) making up your online profile, here are some other science-based tips:

— Dogs are good, but only in the abstract. Women who posts photos of themselves with the actual Rottweiler don't get as many messages.

— Don't state your age as 33, because 33-year-olds get the lowest number of messages. Further research (random numerology websites) shows 33 people described as: "Healers, compassionate, blessings, teacher of teachers, martyr, inspiration, honesty, discipline, bravery, courage." No wonder. Who can live up to that?

— Finally, whatever you do, drink. Women who say they abstain from alcohol get 24 per cent fewer messages.

I guess this profile says more about the guys doing the fishing than the female fish. The ideal woman sounds like the proverbial Good Sport. I'm surprised she doesn't come with a plaid shirt and a pickup truck.

But it doesn't matter what guys want, does it?

The ideal guy, as chosen by female fishers of men, earns between $100 ,000 and $150,000 a year. It helps to have a doctorate, MD or law degree. And, of course, you want to have children, even if you're too busy earning $150k to remember their names.

You apparently don't have to worry about your age, but you should also have dark hair, so I presume that means you should still have hair. Also, the longer your, er, bio, the more likely you are to get a reply. Women like a man who can talk at length about himself. Right.

After reading this survey, I am no longer surprised about that other statistic: More than half of marriages end up in divorce.

Good thing there are still plenty of fish in the sea, even if they are 33.

ZOOM

Hella wicked sight made of sound

COURTESY DLR

Helicopter noise seen for first time

Scientists have revealed why helicopters produce the noise they do – by showing for the first time the sound waves from their rotor blades.

Researchers from the German Aerospace Center in Göttingen developed a way of taking pictures of vortices that form at the blades' tips. METRO

Making vortices

As the rotor blades punch through the atmosphere, they create a vortex at their tips, caused by a difference in pressure around the blade (reduced pressure above the blade and an area of increased pressure below it).

As the rotors spin and hit the vortices of their adjacent blades, they produce the helicopter's distinctive 'carpet beater' noise. METRO

Copter rocks it

In this image, blade-tip vortices are visible as dark lines during a complete rotation of the main rotor.

The engine exhaust flows are perceptible as a noisy area trailing the helicopter. The tail rotor's vortex system is also visible (black, circular lines on the tail rotor). The helicopter is pictured performing a rocking manoeuvre. METRO

Experts track bent light to spot sound

To photograph the vortices, scientists at DLR used a light-tracking technique called the Background Oriented Schlieren Method.

Light rays are refracted as they travel through sections of atmosphere with varying densities. This phenomenon is seen against a suitable background — in this case, a limestone quarry. METRO

Clickbait

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

With Bitcoin becoming increasingly mainstream, hipster speculators and economic-rollercoaster fans are looking elsewhere for their crypto-currency fix. Bitcoin's software is actually open source, meaning anyone can copy it and make their own version. Here are some people who did.

COURTESY DOGECOIN

Litecoin:

Often described as "the silver to Bitcoin's gold," Litecoin was one of the first Bitcoin alternatives on the market. It's also seen a sharp rise in value, currently trading at about $23 per coin. Unlike its predecessor — which required massive computing power to mine effectively — it's easier to mine with the average PC.

Dogecoin:

If you prefer your digital dollars in meme form, then Dogecoin is for you. Named after the smiling Shiba Inu dog who became the most popular Internet meme of 2013, the currency started as a joke but gained value as more users jumped on the bandwagon. Wow.

Letters

RE: Health Authority to Probe Deaths of 2 Patients Shortly after Hospital Discharge, published online Friday, Jan. 10

I just wanted to comment on the story about the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and the two people that died ... it is a horrible thing! But I don't think they should be passing the blame on to the Taxi Cab Board.

Sure, they likely should have a policy in place to make sure people get into their houses ... however, that is not the main problem or fault here!

It is the fact that the hospitals are not getting people well before they send them home, PLUS they are not phoning a relative or caregiver that they are releasing these people. Someone should know that they are going home! Then the problem would not be happening at all.

Rosemarie Menzies, Winnipeg

Who is expecting them?

"Someone should know that they are going home!"

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: ottawaletters@metronews.ca

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Chris Pine ready for duty as latest Jack Ryan recruit

Man of many faces. As the fourth Jack Ryan, Pine wants to 'stay true' to Tom Clancy's famous character

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Chris Pine stars as Jack Ryan in Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit. CONTRIBUTED

In your mind's eye when you picture ex-Marine turned CIA analyst Jack Ryan, who do you see?

Is he a dark-haired, suave six-foot movie star with a hot temper and a racy Twitter account? Or maybe a world-weary fellow with a scar on his chin and a resemblance to Indiana Jones? Or how about the Red Sox fan formerly known as Bennifer?

Created by writer Tom Clancy, Jack Ryan is the lead character in nine novels and the star of five films. This weekend we'll see him uncover a Russian plot to destroy the U.S. economy with a terrorist attack in Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit.

Chris Pine, best known as Captain Kirk in the recently rebooted Star Trek series, is the newest member of the Ryanverse, and hopes to bring something new to the character.

"I can't be Alec Baldwin," he told Empire. "I can't be Harrison Ford. I can only really do my own thing and stay true to the pillars of this character."

Baldwin originated Ryan on screen in the 1990 high-tech thriller The Hunt for Red October.

The movie could have been the beginning of a James Bond-esque franchise for Baldwin, but he left the series after just one outing despite the film being one of the top grossing movies of the year. In a Huffington Post blog he says he was pushed aside for another actor "with much greater strength at the box office."

Baldwin doesn't name names, but Harrison Ford soon signed on, playing Ryan in Patriot Games and Clear and Present Danger.

Author Clancy, who passed away in 2013, was not a fan of the Ford years. He thought the two movies dumbed down his original stories and thought Ford was too old to play the role. "Giving your book to Hollywood is like turning your daughter over to a pimp," he said.

Next up was Ben Affleck, who took over in the 2002 prequel The Sum of All Fears.

"The day I received the offer to play Jack Ryan," said Affleck, "I was filming a Pearl Harbor scene with Alec Baldwin. He was very sweet and said I should do it."

The part's originator has become the go-to guy with actors who sign up to play Ryan. When he was offered the part, Pine was shooting Guardians of the Galaxy with Baldwin. "He urged me to hold onto it," said Pine, "and to attack it."

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Big Bad Wolves has quite the bite

Lior Ashkenazi and Menashe Noy star in Big Bad Wolves, which opens Friday in Toronto CONTRIBUTED

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Bloody great. Violent Israeli thriller adored by Quentin Tarantino is a cinematic heavy hitter

CHRIS ALEXANDER
scene@metronews.ca

Though we haven't the foggiest how many new movies Quentin Tarantino actually watched last year, the maverick director's assessment of Israeli filmmakers Aharon Keshales and Navot Papushado's shattering revenge thriller Big Bad Wolves as "the best film of the year" is hyperbole worth considering. It's really that good.

"We met him in Busan film festival," Keshales told Metro of the event surrounding the screening QT saw.

"Mr. Tarantino came to see the film and at the end, during the Q and A, he raised his hand and said all the beautiful things he said about Big Bad Wolves. He also talked to Navot after the screening and gave us some advice.

He did an amazing thing for our film and we feel blessed to have our idol endorsing our film."

Tarantino's thumbs up may have put Big Bad Wolves on the pop culture radar, but its power to shock and provoke is distinctly the work of its creators. Their 2012 sleeper gem Rabies turned heads internationally and Wolves pushes that picture's blackly comic, ultra-violent ferocity into new, troubling and yet amusing directions.

In it, a rogue policeman and a desperate father kidnap and brutalize the mild-manner teacher they suspect is behind a spate of child murders. But that's just the meat and potatoes set-up of this masterful, serpentine shocker, one that treads a fine line between satire and outright horror show.

"When dealing with such a delicate subject, you have to trust your intuition and gut feeling," the director says.

"If you feel you're crossing a line then you're crossing a line. If you think you're doing something in a very bad taste then you're doing it.

"Another recommendation is to give the script to the more delicate souls in your family, like my mother. If she can read it to the last page without tossing it away in shock then you did good.

"If she laughs, well you just managed to fiendishly manipulate the most tender heart in the world."

Violent, imaginative and super-stylish, the critically revered Big Bad Wolves has firmly put the duo on the map as forces of dark fiction filmmaking and is paving the way for their next projects including a segment in the upcoming ABC's Of Death 2 as well as a surreal, typically violent, atypically Israeli, spaghetti western, currently in pre-production.

"Never in our wildest dreams have we thought we'd get such a strong international response (from our work),"says Keshales.

"After Rabies we decided to make a film that took the revenge theme to the absurd.

"We have a moral stand in Big Bad Wolves but still we didn't how people would react to this new approach and the things we have to say about the 'macho men' in our country."

Big Bad Wolves opens Friday.

Singing the movie's praises

"Mr. Tarantino came to see the film and at the end, during the Q and A, he rasied his hand and he said all the beautiful things he said about Big Bad Wolves.

Aharon Keshales
Director of Big Bad Wolves on the famous filmmaker's opinion of the film.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Investigation underway after Kimye chiropractor confrontation

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

The Beverly Hills Police Department has some questions for Kanye West.

The rapper allegedly walked into a chiropractor's office on Monday and punched a young man who had been haranguing him and his fiancée, Kim Kardashian, with a torrent of racial slurs. Police have confirmed they are conducting an investigation into the incident.

"On Monday, January 13th at approximately 12:15 PM, the Beverly Hills Police Department responded to the 8800 block of Wilshire Blvd. regarding a Misdemeanor Battery that just occurred at the location. The named suspect was identified as Kanye West by the victim and several witnesses," the Beverly Hills Police said in a statement.

"Mr. West had left the location prior to Officers' arrival. As of this writing, BHPD Detectives are conducting a follow-up investigation. No further information at this time."

Apparently, the young man tried to help Kardashian into the medical building in Beverly Hills and started shouting slurs including the n-word at the paparazzi.

When Kardashian asked him not to use the term, he allegedly cursed her off as well, repeating the slur.

After Kim called Kanye for help, the young man cursed him out too.

Of course I would never condone violence, but I find myself very much with Team Kimye on this one.

Jennifer Lawrence

Director deems Lawrence a 'slave' to the silver screen

David O. Russell is not one to mince words. And now the director might cause some trouble with his recent comparison of the Hunger Games franchise to, um, slavery — but at least he's aware of it.

"Talk about 12 years of slavery, that's what the franchise is. And I'm going to get in so much trouble for saying that," Russell tells the New York Daily News, after he suggested that the franchise's producers should go a little easier on star Jennifer Lawrence, who just won a Golden Globe for his film American Hustle.

"I personally think they should give her a bit of breathing room over there because they're printing money. But she's a very alive person."

Stork will bring a boy for Wilde and Sudeikis

It's going to be a boy for Olivia Wilde and Jason Sudeikis, the mother-to-be confirmed to People magazine after her Golden Globes appearance. "He was kicking the whole time, going, 'Where are we?'" she said after divulging that her due date is May 4. She's also taking criticisms of the sequined emerald-green gown she wore to the awards show. "I just heard someone say I looked like a giant, walking pickle," she posted to Twitter the day after the Golden Globes. "As a pickle enthusiast, I thank you."

Police scramble to crack case of egg-regious vandalism

Detectives searched Justin Bieber's home looking for surveillance footage that might serve as evidence the pop star was involved in an egg-tossing vandalism case that caused thousands of dollars in damage to a neighbour's home, an official said Tuesday.

Roughly a dozen investigators searched Bieber's home and arrested one member of the singer's entourage on suspicion of cocaine possession, Lt. David Thompson said.

Home is where the havoc is

- Justin Bieber lives in a gated community in Calabasas, a celebrity enclave about 30 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. Four helicopters hovered over the neighbourhood hours after the warrant was served.
- In October, prosecutors declined to charge Bieber after a neighbour complained he drove recklessly through the area.

Justin Bieber ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

The man was later identified as Lil Za, a rapper whose real name is Xavier Smith. Jail records show Smith, 20, was being held in lieu of $20,000 US bail. Thompson said the cocaine linked to Smith was in plain sight when detectives searched Bieber's house.

Bieber, 19, was at the home and co-operated with authorities but was not interviewed by detectives. Thompson said he expected the singer to speak with detectives when his attorney could be present.

"He has not been arrested, nor has he been exonerated," Thompson said of Bieber.

Thompson declined to describe what evidence detectives took from Bieber's home, but said the emphasis wasn't on what was in the pop star's refrigerator. He said the house Bieber allegedly egged had custom wood and other expensive features and that several thousands of dollars in damage occurred. Thompson added that a judge authorized the search warrant.

"I get that the eggs don't seem that significant, but it does rise to the level of a felony," Thompson said. "There is a victim in this case who has extensive damage done to their home. And that's a serious incident." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No purchase necessary. Terms & conditions apply. For full contest details and conditions, visit clubmetro.com

Casa de Campo's Teeth of the Dog course was designed by Pete Dye, who is renowned for his radical designs. COURTESY CASA DE CAMPO

Bikinis, beaches and birdies

Casa de Campo.

Dominican Republic resort boasts best golf course in the Caribbean

BRIAN KENDALL
canadiangolftraveller.com

In golf, as in fashion, it's impossible to overestimate the marketing clout of a bikini-clad supermodel.

Already a favourite among the game's cognoscenti, Casa de Campo instantly became a must-play destination for red-blooded golfers everywhere when the posh Dominican Republic resort provided the tropical backdrop for Elle Macpherson and other beauties in the 1987 Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue.

"Sports Illustrated was the breakthrough we'd been waiting for," says Montreal-born Gilles Gagnon, Casa de Campo's director of golf since 1980. "It showcased a unique course and an exotic Caribbean setting that golfers wanted to tick off their bucket list along with St. Andrews and Pebble Beach."

Today, Casa de Campo ranks among the world's elite resorts, attracting, among others, billionaires, former U.S. presidents and movie stars who come to golf, play polo, skeet shoot, frolic in the surf and otherwise enjoy a sprawling 7,000-acre retreat so big and ripe with possibilities that hotel guests are given golf carts to get around the grounds.

But even more than Sports Illustrated, Casa de Campo's success has rested from its opening in 1971 on the brilliance of Teeth of the Dog, the marquee attraction of the property's three Pete Dye-designed courses. Dye, now 88, is renowned for his often radical designs at TPC Sawgrass and other celebrated courses. He was hired by then owners Gulf + Western to literally chisel a course from the oceanfront site's razor-sharp coral rock, called "dientes del perro" (teeth of the dog in Spanish) by his frustrated Dominican crew.

Planted sprig by sprig using machete-sharpened sticks, Dye's generous fairways wind through now mature stands of coconut palms, gumbo-limbo trees and bougainvillea. The real fun begins closer to the greens, where sand and water and severe drop-offs demand surgically precise approach shots. Most unforgettable of all are the seven oceanside holes, including the eponymous 16th, a long and treacherous par three set in a rock cove roughly shaped like a dog's snapping jaws.

A hands-on perfectionist, Dye, who used to own a home on the property, has spent half a lifetime tweaking and even massively reworking Teeth of the Dog and the resort's two other courses.

Reopened in early 2012 after a major reconstruction, The Links is a 6,900-yard inland layout played around man-made lakes and through tall roughs of bahia and guinea grass. And, perched on windswept bluffs overlooking the Chavon River, Dye Fore, a rolling and starkly bare behemoth that launched to rave reviews in 2003, has been expanded from 18 to 27 holes. Dye Fore's new nine, Lakes, snakes dramatically around 25 acres of ponds.

For the non-golfers

- **Resort amenities.** The hotel recently completed a $40 million refurbishment and guests can enjoy the pool, spa and private villas.
- **Polo anyone?** There are weekly polo matches as well as skeet and trap shooting at the 300-station shooting centre.

Contest

Become a pro connoisseur for the summer

Do you have what it takes to be a professional connoisseur? Then Tourism Tobago is looking for you to be their Island Connoisseur.

One winner will spend July and August on the island, sharing their experiences over social media. Oh yeah — there's a $30,000 salary for the two-month gig, too.

So who's the ideal connoisseur? An outgoing personality helps. So does being a social media whiz. You must also love learning about new cultures. To enter the contest, submit your short bio and 30-second video to 60daysinparadise.com.

A panel of travel industry experts will pick the top 10 applicants and then Canadians will vote to decide who will become the Island Connoisseur.

METRO

Wanna spend your summer here? FLICKR: ABEEEER

Survive those winter airport blues

Over the last month, we've seen thousands of frustrated travellers delayed or stranded in airports across the country. With weeks of winter weather still ahead of us, here's a quick course in Winter Travel 101.

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Flight cancelled?

If your flight is cancelled, you will be automatically re-accommodated on the next available flight. How soon depends on the frequency of service to your destination. The challenge during peak travel periods is that flights are often full. It could take days. If you initially have trouble re-booking your cancelled flight, it is worth checking back frequently as larger airlines like Air Canada may try to add more flights when extra crew and capacity become available. If your flight is cancelled, you are entitled to a refund for the unused portion of your ticket.

Flight delayed?

In the case of weather-related delays, there are no set rules that airlines in Canada have to follow. Each airline does, however, spell out its passengers' rights in its condition of carriage, a lengthy document that outlines exactly what compensation you can expect from your air carrier in case things go wrong. WestJet will provide you, depending on the length of the delay, with meal and taxi vouchers as well as an overnight stay in a hotel if you are not in your home city. The compensation varies from airline to airline.

It's all in the plan

Book the first flight out in the morning to ensure you are aren't waiting for your aircraft to arrive. Avoid layovers, and if you're heading south and need to make a connection, skip cities like Chicago and Boston and transfer through Miami and Houston, which are less affected by winter storms. If you can, only bring a carry on as it saves time on both ends. Consider buying interruption insurance, which will cover a portion of your unexpected expenses even if the causes are weather-related.

Control your destiny

Check the status of your flight before leaving for the airport, even if the sky is blue. Bad weather in another city can have a domino effect. Bring along phone numbers for the airline and your travel agent in case you need them. If there are big storms and cancellations, the sooner you can get re-booked the better. Don't rely on one person at the airline to help — think outside the box. If you're scheduled to fly from Fort Lauderdale, maybe you can get on a flight out of Miami. Don't forget to look into rental cars, buses or trains in extreme situations.

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Don't wage war at the watercooler, solve conflict with care and class

Ban boardroom brawls. Fight the urge to approach workplace battles with animosity and aggression

SHAHEERAH KAYANI
TalentEgg.ca

Don't just talk, be a good listener too. You need to give the other person a chance to tell their side of the story. ISTOCK

Have you ever gotten in a conflict at school with one of your project team members — or with a colleague at work?

Perhaps someone isn't showing up to meetings or contributing to a group task. Perhaps a personal issue has arisen with one of your coworkers.

These conflicts can leave you agitated and frustrated, whether they are personal, school-related or work-related.

Here are six handy conflict resolution tips that you may find useful in helping you to work through and settle these conflicts.

Talk directly

Rather than complaining to others and spreading rumours, it is best to talk directly with the person or persons involved in the issue. Taking a direct approach is definitely a lot more useful and will be faster than if you try to get someone else to do the talking for you.

If you aren't sure about this approach, speaking to a superior or instructor is a great idea — they may have insight or advice.

Keep your emotions in check

If you're bringing negative energy to the discussion, the other person will feel antagonized and will likely get defensive.

Choose a good time and place

Make sure to consider the setting of any discussion or attempt to resolve conflict. You don't want to be discussing your personal issues in front of everyone else, or somewhere where you are likely to be interrupted or distracted. Try to find a place where you can focus on the issue at hand. Choosing a good time will allow you to engage in a thorough dialogue to resolve the issue.

Choose your words carefully

This one is pretty self-explanatory. When tensions are high, the wrong choice of words can turn a productive discussion into a new stage of the problem. If you're bringing negative energy to the discussion, the other person will feel antagonized and will likely get defensive.

Plan ahead

Identifying the issue at hand and the necessary areas of discussion will make your resolution efforts more effective.

Try and get a clear understanding of the issue at hand, who the involved parties are and what a solution that meets the needs of every party will look like. Concentrate on addressing the issue at hand and focus on your own behaviour and areas of responsibility.

Give information

This is arguably the most important step. Try not to make assumptions. Making a statement like: "You are doing this to make my job harder!" won't get you anywhere. Instead, try offering information: "When you do this, it affects me because...."

Follow up on the solution

- When you have figured out a mutually agreeable solution, make sure to periodically check in with each person to ensure the solution is still working well for both of you.
- Of course, not all conflicts can be resolved under your own authority, no matter how hard you try. Be ready to resort to taking the issue to an instructor or supervisor to ensure that a proper process is followed.

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Hungry for a career that helps others?

Food for thought. A dietitian is a health-care career option worth digesting

ROSIE HALES
TalentEgg.ca

In Canada, opportunities for aspiring dietitians are more abundant than one might think. Check out this introduction to a dietitian's role and learn some of the perks of the job.

But don't get a dietitian confused with a nutritionist!

What exactly does a nutritionist do?

A nutritionist may have studied nutrition at a graduate level at an accredited institution.

In school, nutritionists study food and the body. Nutritionists identify and help eliminate any health issues that may be stemming from certain foods.

They can help with food sensitivities or allergies and can also determine where any deficiencies in food intake may lie. Drawing on their expert knowledge, nutritionists can make sure that you don't miss out on any important food groups or nutrients.

How is that different from a dietitian?

Generally, dietitians are linked into the medical field and a visit to them will often be recommended by a doctor. Dietitians will have obtained a degree from an accredited institution and must be licensed in order to practice.

As a dietitian you could end up writing food columns for different media outlets, developing recipes or even writing cookbooks. ISTOCK

A dietitian might help plan food or nutrition programs to promote healthy eating or prevent or treat illness.

To call themselves a dietitian, they must pass a nationally accredited exam that will register them as a dietitian. In Canada, the Canadian Dietetic Registration Examination is required by every province except Quebec.

Where could I end up working?

Job locations for dietitians aren't limited to a hospital setting. As a dietitian, you could be working at extended care facilities, public health centres, pharmaceutical firms or educational and government institutions. You could also work in the food and drink industry or be a consultant. The possibilities are endless.

What kinds of work can I do?

Being a dietitian doesn't just include helping patients with gaining or losing weight or managing allergies. It can involve meal planning for busy families, athletes or those on a budget.

The chances of you being employed as a dietitian in North America are generally pretty good thanks to aging populations, which means that the need for dietitians is rising. There's also a growing consciousness about healthy eating, meaning people might be coming to you for advice more often.

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University of Yum

Where can I go to school to become a nutritionist or a dietitian?

- If you want to work as a nutritionist or dietitian in Canada then you'll need either a master's or bachelor's degree in dietetics, nutrition, food and nutritional science or biochemistry.
- Working as a dietitian or nutritionist in Canada is an extremely rewarding career for anyone looking to hatch their career in healthcare. It's well worth investigating if you're passionate about food and want to use that passion to help others.

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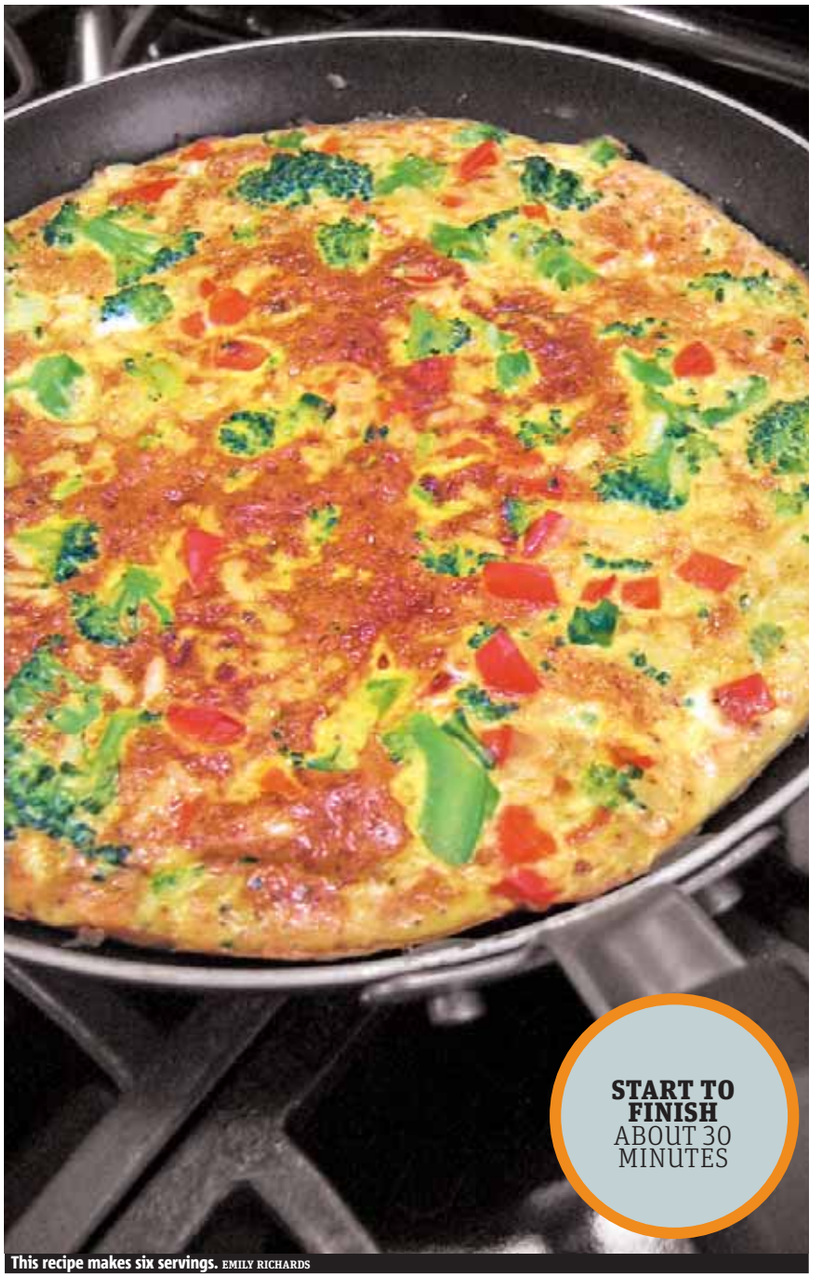
This Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program is funded by the Government of Ontario.

A quick dinner that helps to clean out the fridge, too



This recipe makes six servings. EMILY RICHARDS

Vegetable and Rice Frittata. This dish is great because of its versatility. Use leftover rice and veggies or add your own flavours

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

This vegetarian frittata can be served up with a green salad. Busy night? Start your dinner with a warm bowl of soup and then take a wedge of this with you for a quick meal on the run.

This quick, simple dinner is also a wonderful way to clean out the fridge by using up leftover rice and perhaps even last night's cooked vegetables.

It's just as good the next day, served up for lunch with some pasta sauce.

It's an unforgettable meal that is quick to get on the table and enjoy.

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

1. In an 8 inch (20 cm) heatproof nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Cook shallot and garlic for 2 minutes or until softened. Stir in broccoli, red pepper and curry powder to coat. Add broth, cover and cook for 5 minutes or until broccoli is tender. Stir in rice to coat well.

2. Meanwhile, in bowl, whisk together eggs, egg whites, salt and ground pepper. Pour over vegetable mixture, lifting and stirring eggs into the mixture with a spatula. Cover and cook for about 8 minutes or until edges are set and puffed. Broil about 6 inches (15 cm) away from broiler for 2 to 4 minutes or until knife inserted in centre comes out clean and top is golden brown.

Cooking tips

- This recipe is a great way to use up leftover rice. Whether it is white or brown or sticky rice it will work well. No rice? No problem. When shopping, pick up precooked rice that is ready when you are, so there's no need to cook the rice at home and wait an extra 20 minutes to make the frittata.
- If using frozen broccoli, be sure to thaw if before for best results. The extra water will dilute the flavour in the frittata.
- This dish is also great with peas, potatoes, asparagus or zucchini if that is what you had in your fridge as leftovers.

Ingredients

- 2 tsp (10 ml) canola oil
- 1 shallot, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cups (500 ml) chopped fresh or frozen broccoli
- Half red bell pepper, diced
- 1 tsp (5 ml) curry powder or paste
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) vegetable broth
- 1 cup (250 ml) cooked brown rice
- 4 eggs
- 3 egg whites
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each salt and fresh ground black pepper

Modern update on onion soup

Adding wild mushrooms to this classic French onion soup adds a twist to make this hearty, rich flavour perfect for winter fare. It's a great make-ahead meal to heat up after watching ski sessions or after a simple backyard snowman-making session.

Look for dried mushrooms in the produce aisle near the fresh mushrooms.

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup (50 ml) dried porcini or other dried mushrooms
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) boiling water
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) butter
- 2 large Spanish onions, thinly sliced
- 2 lbs (1 kg) wild mushrooms, such as shiitake, cremini, oyster, or king, trimmed and thinly sliced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped fresh thyme or 1 tsp (5 ml) dried
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) dry sherry or Madeira wine
- 8 cups (2 l) vegetable or chicken stock
- 6 oz (175 g) Cambenzola cheese, sliced
- 16 slices of baguette

1. Place mushrooms in small bowl and pour water over top. Let stand 15 minutes or until softened. Drain, reserving water and chop mushrooms; set aside.

2. Meanwhile, in large soup pot, melt butter over medium high heat and cook onions for about 10 minutes or until softened. Add mushrooms, garlic and thyme and cook for about 15 minutes or until no liquid remains. Add sherry and cook for about 5 minutes or until evaporated. Add stock and bring to a gentle boil.

3. Meanwhile, place cheese on top of baguette slices. Ladle soup into French onion soup bowls or heatproof bowls and top each with 2 cheese-topped baguette slices. Place on baking sheet and broil for about 1 minute or until cheese is bubbly and baguette is golden.

EMILY RICHARDS

This recipe makes six to eight servings. EMILY RICHARDS

MLB

Cy Young winners arbitration bound

Cy Young Award winners Clayton Kershaw of the Los Angeles Dodgers and Max Scherzer of the Detroit Tigers headed 146 players who filed for salary arbitration Tuesday.

Players are set to swap proposed salaries with their clubs Friday, and hearings will be scheduled for next month in St. Petersburg, Fla. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Australian Open

Li beats Bencic, heat in Round 2

Coming from one of China's three "Stove Cities" had its benefits for Li Na on another scorching day at the Australian Open.

The 2011 French Open from Wuhan raced through the first set against 16-year-old Belinda Bencic in 22 minutes on Wednesday, conceding just 10 points. She had to work harder in the second, with temperatures topping 39 C before winning 6-0, 7-6 (5). THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

White House visit

"This group has now won twice but it's gone to the finals three times and, sometimes, it feels like they're still fighting for a little respect. I can relate to that."

U.S. President Barack Obama, who welcomed the back-to-back champion Miami Heat to the White House on Tuesday.

Georges St-Pierre says the UFC's hesitant position when it came to stiffer drug testing greatly influenced his decision to take a hiatus from fighting.
JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

GSP: Drug testing influenced hiatus

MMA. Ex-welterweight champion says UFC didn't support his bid to get tougher on doping

Quoted

"I feel very good; I feel very happy."

Georges St-Pierre, on appreciating the recent holiday season with his family and being able to have a few drinks.

Mixed martial arts star Georges St-Pierre says the Ultimate Fighting Championship's hesitant position when it came to stiffer drug testing greatly influenced his decision to take a break from the Octagon.

St-Pierre said Tuesday a lack of strenuous drug testing was one of the factors that led to his decision to step away from the sport.

"It bothered me greatly, it was one of the reasons I decided to step aside," St-Pierre said Tuesday.

He vacated his welterweight title and took a hiatus from the sport in December, citing a need to lead a normal life and deal with mental fatigue.

The 32-year-old confirmed when asked by a reporter that his employer, the UFC, did not support him when he proposed drug testing in the weeks preceding his Nov. 16 fight against Johnny Hendricks.

St-Pierre stepped away following UFC 167, where he won a controversial split decision over Hendricks. After that fight, he said he needed time away to sort out some personal issues.

The star fighter was prudent in his comments Tuesday, being careful not to point fingers at any one person or fighter. He stressed he wasn't accusing anyone of steroid abuse.

St-Pierre said he wanted to bring the sport he loves to "another level" of testing and help those who are honest in the sport.

"I tried to change things, and unfortunately, maybe for money reasons, maybe for image, they were not ready to do that," St-Pierre said. "I tried to (bring about) change in a very diplomatic way and it didn't work so it's unfortunate, but I believe it will happen sooner or later."

St-Pierre said implementing drug testing is not a condition for any potential return to the sport. He added he could understand the reticence from the organization — a failed drug test could dramatically change a card and result in people losing money. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leaving the door open

Georges St-Pierre said he hasn't made a decision to retire and added he's in top physical condition and still trains regularly.

- While he has remained vague about a comeback, St-Pierre says the break has made him a better fighter because he's not feeling any external pressure. He repeated he hasn't set any timetable to make a decision regarding his UFC future.

4 SPORTS

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Harbaugh fighting for 2nd title shot

Head coach Jim Harbaugh of the San Francisco 49ers looks on in the second quarter against the Carolina Panthers during their NFC divisional playoff game on Sunday in Charlotte, N.C. The team is now one win away from a trip to the Super Bowl. GRANT HALVERSON/GETTY IMAGES

NFC championship.

Niners coach charged up ahead of matchup with familiar foe Pete Carroll

Jim Harbaugh pirouetted in frustration following a personal foul on Dan Skuta. He got hit with his own unsportsmanlike conduct penalty for arguing following a catch by Vernon Davis that went to review before being ruled a touchdown.

And that was just last Sunday.

Harbaugh has been at his emotional best — or, to some, worst — with his cartoon-like faces and quirky sideline antics in leading San Francisco back to the NFC championship game for the third time in as many years since taking over as 49ers head coach in January 2011. On Davis's TD during Sunday's 23-10 win at Carolina, Harbaugh ran well onto the field during the play.

"I think Harbaugh gets away with murder myself," former Seattle Seahawks coach and ex-49ers assistant Mike Holmgren said. "If I ever did that it would be a penalty."

Harbaugh should be as charged up as ever come Sunday, when he faces off once more against the rival Seahawks in an NFC championship game featuring that familiar coaching sideshow with Pete Carroll. This time, there's a Super Bowl berth on the line.

But if you ask Harbaugh, "What's your deal?" is old news. Enough already, he insists, keep it about the players.

The controversy dates back to their college days coaching in the Pac-10 Conference. In 2009, Harbaugh and No. 25 Stanford ran up the score on 11th-ranked USC in a surprising 55-21 rout, even attempting a 2-point conversion with the game way out of reach — prompting Carroll's infamous "What's your deal?" when they met afterward at midfield.

"That might have been something four or five years ago," Harbaugh said. "But I haven't seen it as of late. And it would be as irrelevant now as it would have been then when people made a bigger deal out of it ..." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Coaching wins rings

The 49ers have already accomplished plenty this post-season by winning in the bitter cold of Green Bay and at Carolina.

- Harbaugh is the first coach in the Super Bowl era to reach the NFC championship in each of his first three years.
- The 50-year-old, a 15-year NFL quarterback himself, regularly moves around the team plane to speak with players about football and life.

Facing the league's best

"It's hard to get to this position.... And they did it better than anybody did it this entire season. So, a great task, great challenge ahead of us."

49ers coach Jim Harbaugh, on the Seahawks.

NFL

Lions hire coach Caldwell to get team into playoffs

The Detroit Lions wanted to replace Jim Schwartz with someone with experience as a head coach.

They landed one, but he appears to be plan B.

The team said Tuesday that Jim Caldwell has been hired as the new coach and will be introduced at a news conference Wednesday. San Diego Chargers assistant and former Arizona Cardinals coach Ken Whisenhunt was seemingly Detroit's top choice, but he chose to take the head coaching job at Tennessee on Monday night.

The Lions are giving Caldwell another chance to be an NFL head coach. He helped the Indianapolis Colts reach the Super Bowl after his debut season in 2009, but was fired two years later after a 2-14 season while Peyton Manning was injured, dropping his three-year mark to 26-22.

"We believe Jim is the right man to lead our team and deliver a championship to our fans," Lions owner William Clay Ford said in a statement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL concussion lawsuit.

Judge says league may have to put up more cash

A federal judge is slowing down the proposed $765 million US settlement of NFL concussion claims, questioning if there's enough money to cover 20,000 retired players.

U.S. District Judge Anita B. Brody denied preliminary approval of the plan on Tuesday because she's worried the money could run out sooner than expected. She also raised concerns that anyone who gets concussion damages from the NFL would be barred from suing the NCAA or other amateur football leagues.

"I am primarily concerned that not all retired NFL football players who ultimately receive a qualifying diagnosis or their (families) ... will be paid," the judge wrote.

The proposed settlement, negotiated over several months, is designed to last at least 65 years.

The awards would vary based on an ex-player's age and diagnosis. A younger retiree with Lou Gehrig's disease would get $5 million, those with serious dementia cases would get $3 million and an 80-year-old with early dementia would get $25,000. Retirees without symptoms would get baseline screening and follow-up care if needed.

"Even if only 10 per cent of retired NFL football players eventually receive a qualifying diagnosis," the judge wrote, "it is difficult to see how the Monetary Award Fund would have the funds available over its lifespan to pay all claimants at these significant award levels."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Proposed settlement

More than 4,500 former players have filed suit, some accusing the league of fraud for its handling of concussions. They include former Dallas Cowboys running back Tony Dorsett and Super Bowl-winning Chicago Bears quarterback Jim McMahon, who suffers from dementia.

- The settlement would include $675 million for compensatory claims for players with neurological symptoms, $75 million for baseline testing for asymptomatic men and $10 million for medical research and education.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	45	29	14	2	129	98	60
Tampa Bay	46	27	15	4	134	112	58
Montreal	46	26	15	5	117	107	57
Detroit	46	20	16	10	118	127	50
Toronto	47	22	20	5	128	143	49
Ottawa	46	20	18	8	131	146	48
Florida	45	17	21	7	105	139	41
Buffalo	44	13	26	5	77	121	31

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	47	33	12	2	152	112	68
Washington	45	22	16	7	136	135	51
NY Rangers	47	24	20	3	118	124	51
Philadelphia	46	23	19	4	121	129	50
Columbus	46	22	20	4	129	131	48
New Jersey	47	19	18	10	108	117	48
Carolina	46	19	18	9	111	130	47
NY Islanders	47	18	22	7	130	152	43

Tuesday's results
San Jose at Washington
Tampa Bay at NY Rangers
Toronto at Boston
Philadelphia at Buffalo
NY Islanders at Florida
New Jersey at Montreal
Ottawa at Minnesota
Calgary at Nashville
Phoenix at St. Louis
Colorado at Chicago
Edmonton at Dallas
Monday's results
Los Angeles 1 Vancouver 0
Calgary 2 Carolina 0
Winnipeg 5 Phoenix 1
Columbus 3 Tampa Bay 2
Wednesday's games — All times Eastern
Buffalo at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Pittsburgh, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Anaheim, 10:30 p.m.
Thursday's games
Nashville at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Detroit at NY Rangers, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
NY Islanders at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Montreal at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Los Angeles at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Boston at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Winnipeg at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Vancouver at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	48	30	8	10	175	132	70
St. Louis	44	31	8	5	161	99	67
Colorado	45	28	12	5	132	115	61
Minnesota	48	25	18	5	118	119	55
Dallas	45	20	18	7	127	139	47
Nashville	47	19	21	7	109	141	45
Winnipeg	48	20	23	5	133	146	45

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	48	35	8	5	161	119	75
San Jose	46	28	12	6	148	116	62
Los Angeles	47	28	14	5	120	96	61
Vancouver	47	24	14	9	123	115	57
Phoenix	45	21	15	9	134	141	51
Calgary	46	16	24	6	103	144	38
Edmonton	48	15	28	5	126	169	35

Note: 2 points for a win, 1 point for overtime loss.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pt
Crosby, Pgh	25	42	67
Kane, Chi	23	33	56
Tavares, NYI	21	35	56
Getzlaf, Ana	23	30	53
Thornton, SJ	5	45	50
Perry, Ana	25	24	49
Sharp, Chi	25	24	49
Kunitz, Pgh	24	25	49
Backstrom, Wash	11	37	48
Toews, Chi	17	30	47
Ovechkin, Wash	32	14	46
Malkin, Pgh	12	34	46
Okposo, NYI	19	26	45

Tuesday's games not included

NFL PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sunday's games
All times Eastern
New England at Denver, 3 p.m.
San Francisco at Seattle, 6:30 p.m.

SUPER BOWL

Sunday, Feb. 2
At East Rutherford, N.J.
AFC champion vs. NFC champion, 6:30 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Indiana	29	7	.806	—
d-Miami	27	10	.730	2½
d-Toronto	19	17	.528	10
Atlanta	20	18	.526	10
Washington	17	19	.472	12
Chicago	17	19	.472	12
Detroit	16	22	.421	14
New York	15	22	.405	14½
Brooklyn	15	22	.405	14½
Charlotte	15	23	.395	15
Cleveland	13	24	.351	16½
Boston	13	26	.333	17½
Philadelphia	12	25	.324	17½
Orlando	10	28	.263	20
Milwaukee	7	30	.189	22½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-San Antonio	30	8	.789	—
d-Portland	28	9	.757	1½
Oklahoma City	28	9	.757	1½
d-L.A. Clippers	26	13	.667	4½
Houston	25	14	.641	5½
Golden State	25	14	.641	5½
Dallas	23	16	.590	7½
Phoenix	21	16	.568	8½
Denver	19	18	.514	10½
Minnesota	18	19	.486	11½
Memphis	17	19	.472	12
New Orleans	15	22	.405	14½
L.A. Lakers	14	23	.378	15½
Sacramento	13	22	.371	15½
Utah	13	26	.333	17½

d — division leader.
Tuesday's results
Sacramento at Indiana
New York at Charlotte
Oklahoma City at Memphis
Cleveland at L.A. Lakers
Monday's results
Toronto 116 Milwaukee 94
Houston 104 Boston 92
New York 98 Phoenix 96 (OT)
Washington 102 Chicago 88
San Antonio 101 New Orleans 95
Dallas 107 Orlando 88
Utah 118 Denver 103
Wednesday's games — All times Eastern
Charlotte at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Miami at Washington, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Memphis at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Utah at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Houston at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Cleveland at Portland, 10 p.m.
Denver at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Dallas at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Canada's very own Micra

Review. It's been 21 years since it was last sold here but now Nissan has decided to bring it back and 'Canadianize' it

MIKE GOETZ
drive@metronews.ca

PHOTOS: NISSAN

Nissan Micra's re-introduction to Canada reflects this country's love of small hatchbacks .

Currently sold in 160 countries, the Nissan Micra subcompact hatchback is a very successful global car.

But it's always been a no-show in the U.S., and it's been 21 years since it was last sold in Canada for an unremarkable seven-year run.

Nissan Canada just announced it will try the Micra experiment again, this time with feeling, and with a very "Canadianized" version, which will be exclusive to Canada. Nissan's U.S. arm is still not Micra motivated, and won't be selling any Micra versions any time soon.

Historically, the Canadian marketplace has always been populated with Canada-only models not sold in the U.S., but they're getting scarcer on the ground, and with what Nissan Canada had to go through, to make this new Micra happen, you can see why…

"It was in development for three years solid," says Andrew Wilton, Nissan Canada's chief marketing manager, and one of the Nissan execs on hand for the model's first unveiling, at a special event in Montreal last week. "You wouldn't believe the amount of engineering that went into it."

The Canadian 2015 Micra will be built at Nissan's Mexican plant, which has been building Mexican-market Micras for years, but Wilton said the Canadian version is closer to the European version. "We looked at the Mexican car, but it just wasn't right for us. We wanted more of the European touches."

In fact, the launch of the Canadian car was timed to coincide with the European model's mid-cycle revision, just completed in 2013.

Some of the "Canada-only" items on this Micra include ducts for rear-seat heating, 60/40 split folding rear seat, heated side mirrors, and front and rear sway bars for the suspension. Wilton and Nissan Canada are really proud of that suspension.

They took the best Micra suspension component set up they could find globally, in that European market Micra, and made it even better, by adding those sway bars: "No other market has a front or rear sway bar," boasted Wilton.

The car also gets the European 15 and 16 inch wheels, because Nissan Canada liked the looks of them, and Canadians use winter tires, and those are harder to come by on the smaller 13 and 14 inch wheels featured on the Micra models in other markets.

"That's the beauty of a global car. You can pick and choose from every single market. We selfishly like to think we did a really good job at the picking and choosing," added Wilton.

The Micra is smaller than the Nissan Versa Note, but shares the same V-platform, which underpins a lot of small Nissans (V stands for versatile). Micra's engine will also be the same 1.6-litre "four" toiling away in Versa Note, but Micra will go with a five-speed manual or conventional four-speed automatic; Versa's automatic is a CVT.

Keeping the "higher-technology" pieces on the Versa Note is Nissan's strategy to give the two small hatchbacks some separation on the sales floor and on the price ladder. So don't expect stuff up-market options like heated seats, navigation, and 360-degree monitor on the Micra.

Versa Note's base price is $13,348. Micra's will be lower than that, but Nissan is not saying by how much exactly, at least not yet.

2015 Nissan Micra

- **Type.** Subcompact four-door hatchback
- **Engine.** 1.6-lite four-cylinder engine
- **Transmissions.** 4-speed automatic or 5-speed manual
- **Base price (incl. destination).** Nissan said it will be lower than their $13.3K Versa Note

Exclusive Canadian club

The Canadian marketplace has always featured vehicles not sold in the U.S., but we're seeing less and less of them. Here are a few past and Canadian-market models that were, or are, persona non grata in the U.S., 1959 Dodge Viscount; 2000 Toyota Echo Hatchback; 2005 Acura EL 1.7, 2009 Mercedes-Benz B-Class.

*Limited time 2.9% semi-monthly lease offered through Toyota Financial Services on approved credit to qualified retail customers on all new 2014 Corolla models. First semi-monthly payment due at lease inception and next semi-monthly payment due approximately 15 days later and semi-monthly thereafter throughout the term. Toyota Financial Services will waive the final semi-monthly payment. Semi-monthly lease offers not open to employees of Toyota Canada, Toyota Financial Services or TMMC/TMMC Vehicle Purchase Plan. Some conditions apply. See your Toyota dealer for complete details. Example (applies across Canada except Quebec): 2014 Corolla CE 6M with a vehicle price of $16,415 (includes $1,100 Toyota Canada Lease Assist, which is deducted from the negotiated selling price after taxes, and $1,520 freight/PDI) leased at 2.9% over 60 months with $0 down payment equals 120 semi-monthly payments of $89 with a cost of borrowing of $1,735.85 and a total obligation of $12,369.05. $0 security deposit and first semi-monthly payment due at lease inception. Price and total obligation exclude license, insurance, registration, fees and taxes. 100,000 km allowance for 60 months, with ability to purchase additional kilometres at $0.05/km at time of lease inception, and a charge of $0.07/km for excess kilometres. Dealer may lease for less.

Automotive eye candy is coming ...

Autoknow. In a world that seems incapable of keeping secrets, the Detroit Auto Show still has a surprise or two up its sleeve

TODD D. BURLAGE
wheelbasemedia.com

The 2014 North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) in Detroit, Mich., won't likely have the punch of the 2013 event.

Why? The Corvette was a huge draw a year ago. And with the international debut of the 2015 Ford Mustang already having taken place in December, this year's NAIAS will launch Jan. 18 to the general public without the draw of a clear headline act.

But what the NAIAS will lack in the revelations of iconic vehicles, it will likely make up for with a wide variety of debuts from many of the premier manufacturers around the world. More than 20 top autobuilders have confirmed vehicle launches during the show, including Acura, Bentley, BMW, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Ford, Honda, Infiniti, Lexus, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Porsche, Toyota and Volkswagen.

"The manufacturers continue to show their confidence in the NAIAS, and will once again bring their absolute best to Detroit's world stage," said Bob Shuman, chairman of this year's show. "That means introductions of an expected 50 worldwide concept and production vehicles that will be seen for the very first time right here in Detroit."

Almost 30,000 industry professionals, 5,000 journalists and 750,000 visitors will converge on the Cobo Center in Detroit for the Super Bowl of auto shows that ends Jan. 26. "The manufacturers made it abundantly clear that this show and the global stage it provides is of critical importance to their vehicle launch strategies," said 2013 show chairman Jim Seavitt.

As expected, every vehicle type — more than 500 models total —will be displayed on more than 60 exhibitor stages throughout the 2.4 million square-foot Cobo Center.

Many manufacturers are keeping their reveal plans hidden in the garage, but a few details have leaked on what show visitors can expect. Following are some of the most anticipated vehicle debuts scheduled for Detroit.

Quoted

"The manufacturers continue to show their confidence in the NAIAS, and will once again bring their absolute best to Detroit's world stage."

Bob Shuman, chairman of this year's show

2014 BMW 2 Series Coupe

Bavarian Motor Works is creating arguably the most buzz of any manufacturer as it readies to pull the covers off of not one, not two, but three important vehicle launches in Detroit. The most anticipated of the three surrounds the 2 Series, which is a two-door coupe designed and built to replace the aging 1 Series. The new car will be a late-2014-model-year arrival when it goes on sale in March. The 2 Series is about nine centimetres longer that the 1 Series and has more space between the front and rear wheels, meaning more cabin and storage space. Why call it a 2 Series? BMW is rejigging its number sequencing with even digits being assigned to two-door models. Two models will be available at launch: the base 228i; and the sportier M235i. BMW will also unveil its all-new M3 performance sedan and M4 coupe in Detroit.

2015 Mercedes-Benz C Class

Hoping to attract even more popularity to its best-selling model, Mercedes-Benz will introduce an all-new longer and wider C Class coupe that the company touts as "a bold departure from its predecessor," a classic model that has already sold more than 2.4 million units worldwide. By adding more aluminum in construction - almost 50 per cent compared to 10 per cent in the outgoing C Class car — the new vehicle sheds about 100 kilograms from the existing model, a weight reduction that Mercedes-Benz says will help cut fuel consumption by about 20 per cent and greatly improve handling and agility. An air suspension will be available for the first time in the C Class, with three engine options to choose from at launch. The C180 and the C200 models feature 1.6- and 1.9-litre powerplants. The C220 CDI carries a 2.1-litre turbo-diesel. A hybrid model will also be added to the C Class catalog later this year.

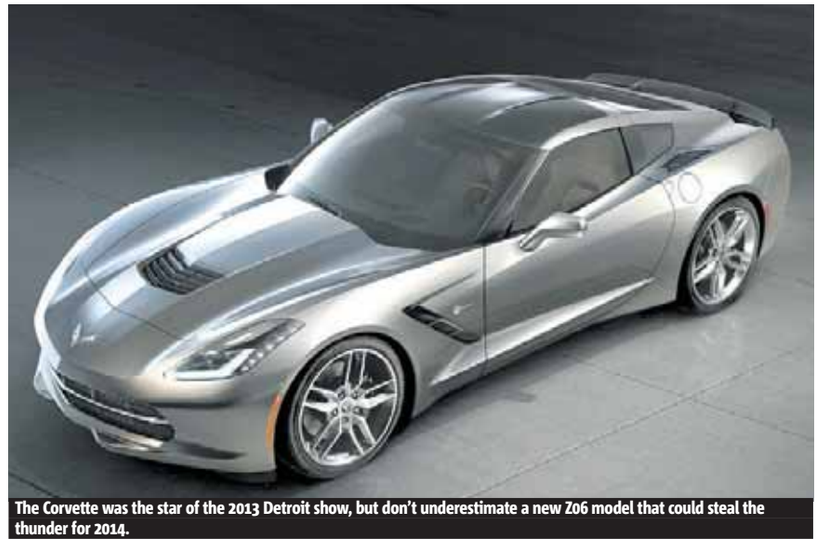
2015 Lexus RC F

Based on a couple of teaser photos from Lexus, the RC F is a high-performance version of the RC coupe that was unveiled at the Tokyo Motor Show in November. According to Autoblog.com, the new RC F will be the hit of the Lexus lineup in Detroit, with a V8 engine that will produce up to 460 horsepower, and with similar styling and design cues featured on the LF-CC concept car that was unveiled at the 2012 Paris Motor Show.

2015 Honda Fit

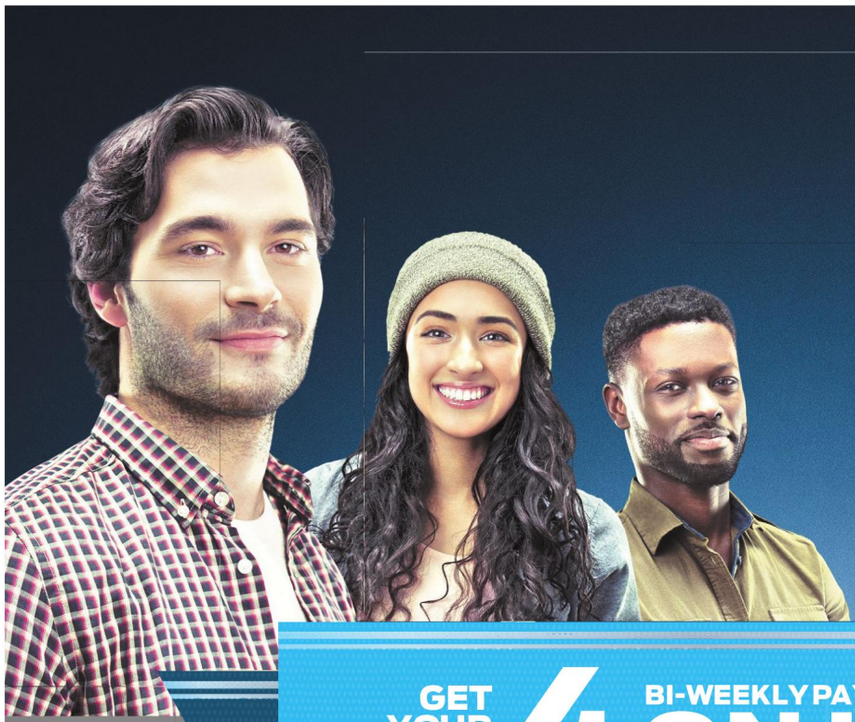
Honda promises that its third-generation Fit will feature fresher styling, more space and improved fuel efficiency. An all-new platform and powertrain is also expected to improve performance for a popular subcompact that has sold nearly five million units in 123 different countries since its introduction in 2001.As the new-car buyer continues to crave lower fuel consumption, Honda promises that the new Fit hybrid will not only deliver terrific efficiency but better performance and some of the best safety features in its class. Add to these four anticipated production models the debuts of some intriguing concept vehicles such as the bold-looking John Cooper Works model from Mini and the Formula One racing inspired Q50 from Infiniti, and the hosts of NAIAS vow that the 2014 show will be want for nothing. "It's what we've been working on since last January," Shuman said of the massive event preparations. "This show is going to rock."

The Lexus RC coupe was unveiled in November, but a high-performance RC F will launch in Detroit ALL IMAGES WHEELBASE



The Corvette was the star of the 2013 Detroit show, but don't underestimate a new Z06 model that could steal the thunder for 2014.

Even though the new Mustang has already been unveiled, Detroit might represent the first opportunity to see one in the flesh.



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Platinum model shown.

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The Offer applies to the first four bi-weekly payments for customers paying on a bi-weekly basis and the sum of 12 monthly payments divided by 26 and multiplied by 4 for customers paying on a monthly basis ("First 4 Bi-Weekly Payments"). Maximum amounts are $500 on 2013/2014 Focus (excluding S), Fiesta (excluding S) and 2014 C-MAX; $1,000 on 2013/2014 Fusion; 2014 Escape (excluding S); and 2014 Edge; $1,250 on 2013/2014 Taurus, Edge, 2014 F-150 Regular Cab, Super Cab, and Super Crew; $1,500 on 2013/2014 Flex, 2014 Explorer, All Mustang Shelby GT500, Transit Connect E-Series, F-150 Raptor, Super Duty, Medium Truck, Chassis Cab and Cutaway models excluded. Offer only available on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. If the equivalent of the First 4 Bi-Weekly Payments is greater than the purchase price of the eligible vehicle, the customer will receive a credit equal to the purchase price of the eligible vehicle. Customer will be responsible for making all of his/her remaining scheduled payments in accordance with their contract. Offer not available to cash purchase customers. Not combinable with CFP, CPA, GPC, Commercial Upfit Incentive Program or Daily Rental Allowances incentives. * Until January 13, 2014. Purchase a new 2014 Escape S FWD/ 2014 Fusion S/ 2013 F-150 XLT SuperCrew 4x4/ 2013 F-150 SuperCrew Platinum 4x4 5.0L] for [$25,318/$23,798]/ [$39,999/$48,088] (after Manufacturer Rebate of [$500]/ $0/ $10,000/ $10,000). Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after total manufacturer rebate has been deducted. Offers include freight and air tax but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Delivery Allowances are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. ** Until February 28, 2014, lease a new 2014 Ford Fusion S for up to 48 months and get 0% APR on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment. Lease the above-noted model with a value of [$25,318/$23,798] (after [$1,000/$0] down payment or equivalent trade-in and [$500/$0] manufacturer rebate deducted) at 0% APR for up to 48 months with an optional buyout of [$9,967/$9,424], monthly payment is [$299/$0], total lease obligation is [$15,352/$14,352], interest cost of leasing is $0 or 0% APR. Offers include freight, air tax, and PPSA but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. Additional payments required for optional features, license, and insurance. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Some conditions and mileage restriction of 32,000km for 24 months applies. Excess kilometrage charges are 16¢per km for F-Series, plus applicable taxes. Excess kilometrage charges subject to change (except in Quebec), see your local dealer for details. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Manufacturer rebates are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. ¤Until January 31, 2014, receive $1,000 in Manufacturer Rebates on the purchase of a new 2013 Focus (excluding ST). Offer is subject to change without notice. See your Ford Dealer for complete details. Offer valid from December 27, 2013 to January 31, 2014 (the "Offer Period") to resident Canadians with an eligible Costco membership on or before November 30, 2013 who purchase or lease of a new 2013/2014 Ford (excluding Fiesta, Focus, C-Max, Raptor, GT500, Mustang Boss 302, Transit Connect EV, and Medium Truck) or Lincoln vehicle (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). Limit one (1) offer per each Eligible Vehicle purchase or lease, up to a maximum of two (2) separate Eligible Vehicle sales per Costco Membership Number. Offer is transferable to persons domiciled with an eligible Costco member. Applicable taxes calculated before CAD$1,000 offer is deducted. ‡Claim based on analyses by Ford or Polk global new registration for CY2012 for a single nameplate which excludes rebadged vehicles; platform derivatives or other vehicle nameplate versions. ‡ Based on year-end 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 total sales figures for right vehicles in Canada from DesRosiers Automotive Consultants Inc. (and Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association data exchanged by OEMs). ©2013 Sirius Canada Inc. "SiriusXM", the SiriusXM logo, channel names and logos are trademarks of SiriusXM Radio Inc. and are used under licence. ©2013 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved.

Sporadic power delivery an issue with the Fit

Second gear.
2007-2013
Honda Fit

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PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

PHOTO: PROVIDED

Honda's Fit launched in Canada for 2007 with a cleverly designed body and cabin that generated a whole whack of space inside of a small package. Big on flexibility, efficiency and reliability, Fit found homes in the driveways of thousands of active Canadians, students, busy couples, pet lovers and outdoors buffs alike. Crammed with 2,572 liters of interior volume and 1,622 liters of cargo space, Fit owners benefit from rear seats that flip up or down to accommodate a variety of items.

Common issues

Inspect your potential used Fit candidate for signs of damaged or peeling paint, which may be more prevalent on the bumpers. Many owners say they wish for a more durable finish from their Fit. Further, check for signs of rust, or repaired rust, around the rear wheelwells where the steel body panel meets the bumper—especially in first generation models. Be sure the tailgate stays open on its own, confirming the struts that lift and support the tailgate aren't worn out. Be sure the first-generation Fit has a properly-functioning external tailgate release latch, too. If it sticks or fails to open the hatch, an occasional blast of WD-40 can help until you wind up replacing the assembly. Lumpy, lazy or sporadic power delivery at moderate or full throttle may be the result of failure of one of the four coil packs, which fire the spark plugs. The Fit should steer easily and smoothly at any speed. If it doesn't, a fussy Electronic Power Steering (EPS) component could be to blame. Many owners simply restart the engine to bring the system back online if it cuts out—which will illuminate a warning light and drastically increase steering effort.

What owners like

Fit owners rave about mileage, versatility, handling, braking, maneuverability, visibility, ergonomics, and a surprising level of on-board roominess, despite the machine's compact size.

What owners dislike

Fit owners typically complain about a noisy engine and ride, abrupt ride characteristics in some situations, and diminished performance when the vehicle is loaded up.

Engine

All models were motivated by a 1.5-litre i-VTEC 4-cylinder engine, offering up to 117 horsepower. Fit drives the front wheels through either a 5-speed manual transmission or a 5-speed automatic with available paddle-shift.

The verdict

Used car shoppers can expect the Fit to command a premium in the used market, in exchange for above-average reliability, versatility and driving pleasure. Seek a mechanical thumbs-up from a Honda mechanic ahead of your purchase, and then buy confidently.

All hail the plow: Snow body does it better

Driving force. We may take them for granted sometimes but a lot of work and innovation goes into keeping our streets and roads safe

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When the weather turns icy, you simply toss some salt on your driveway. But municipalities have to do far more than that to keep the streets clear whenever snow and ice are in the forecast.

"We use two forms of salt," says Uldis Siksna, manager of maintenance and operations for the Region of Durham. "We have salt brine and solid rock salt."

Before a storm or freezing temperatures arrive, trucks spray brine on dry roads, a process known as anti-icing. "This liquid salt dries up and leaves the salt residue on the road, which shows up as white lines," Siksna says. "You're trying to prevent a bond from forming between the roadway and any freezing rain, snow, or ice pellets. It's easier to keep the surface of the road clear when it's time to plow."

Once the snow flies, plows go out to clear it away, and to scatter rock salt on the road. Some trucks spray liquid brine onto the rock salt just before it's spread, which is called pre-wetting. This helps keep the salt from bouncing too much, and also speeds up the melting process.

Salt lowers the freezing point of water, which is why salted ice melts at temperatures below freezing, but it does have its limits. Salt is basically ineffective below -20 C.

Municipalities with very cold winter temperatures use sand instead, which provides traction. It's more environmentally-friendly than salt, which can damage concrete and vegetation, but it's not viable in milder regions, where it would regularly wash off the roads and need to be reapplied. "There are huge costs associated with getting rid of sand," Siksna says, adding that it clogs storm drains.

Each municipality has its own routines for handling snow and ice, which can depend on what type of trucks it has and how many, the type of roads, and its budget. Some add calcium chloride to their brine, which works at even lower temperatures, while a few, including Toronto, use a liquid made from sugar beets.

It's easier on the environment than salt, but far more expensive. But no matter where you are, one rule applies: be cautious around snow plows.

"People try to pass a plow, and they're passing on a portion that hasn't been cleared," Siksna says.

"They lose control and they hit the plow, or they hit someone head-on, or they go into the ditch. Eventually the plow finishes its circuit and turns off, so stay behind it."

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Toyota's FT-1 concept has universal appeal

2014 Detroit Auto Show. Japanese automaker decided to indulge itself and show a stunning vision of where the company is headed for the future

AUTO PILOT
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I think Toyota have succeeded in making a car that everyone likes in FT-1 BOTH PROVIDED

The interior is a good example of the designers' 'just for function' ethos

The Toyota FT-1 concept debuting in Detroit this week portends what a front-engine, rear-drive Toyota flagship sports car might look like, if Toyota was so inclined to build one.

It was totally designed at Toyota's Calty design studio in California, and the chief designer there, Alex Shen, tells us that the main design theme was to leverage and celebrate the "functional aspects of a sports car."

"If you look at the surfacing and construction, you can see everything is based on downforce and cooling needs," says Shen. As such, the air intakes and outtakes are where a lot of the FT-1's visual horsepower is made, with very graceful and dramatic sculpting.

"We didn't just want to make very mechanical holes. The sculpting is actually in the holes, in the negative surfacing."

The other curves and bodywork are also all about doing what they can for engine cooling, aerodynamics, and cleaning up "dirty air." When Calty talked to Toyota's "race guys" (the department known as TRD), the race guys said dirty air around the wheel arches is a particular problem on the racetrack. The FT-1 has crazy wheel flares and tight body-to-wheel tolerances, but it's not for show — it's all for go.

At higher speeds a retractable rear wing also deploys and tilts forward to improve weight distribution.

Shen said the vehicle is "authentically aerodynamic."

The "just for function" ethos continues to the tiny cabin, which is just big enough to cover the driver and passenger, and the soft seat materials exist only where they meet human body parts.

"Nothing is excessive," says Shen.

I guess I get what he means, but everything works toward an excessively dramatic sports car concept. It's a showstopper for sure, and a bit of a reversal for Toyota, which has historically only green-lighted vehicle designs if they satisfied a lot of consensus-based tests, such as consumer and market studies, and internal juries.

"The goal was to produce a vehicle liked by everyone," said Kevin Hunter, who heads up Calty, and who had the honours of introducing the concept in Detroit. "As a result we took less risk, and tried not to stray too far from designs that had been a success."

Hunter said Toyota is moving away from such consensus decision processes, so more emotionally engaging products, like the FT-1, can be created: "This is a symbol of Toyota's design future, a spiritual pace car for a changing Toyota."

No production plans or any technical specifications for the FT-1 were revealed, though Shen said many elements of the design should show up on future Toyota products.

Parts department

WHEELBASE MEDIA

Own your own track

If you love racing, possess an entrepreneurial spirit and are very much in the money, owning the GrandSport Speedway, located just off Interstate 45 between Houston and Galveston, Tex., might be for you or your group. This 80-acre motorsports facility includes a 1.4-mile road-racing circuit that currently operates year-round and is used for a variety of events. They include motorcycle and kart racing as well as racecar rentals and a Racing Adventures driving school featuring Cobra roadster replicas, Corvettes and other exotics. There's also an active club program, where members who own high-performance machinery can test themselves and their vehicles. The asking price for the track is $3.9 million. Visit grandsportspeedway.com for info.

Reduce travel travails

To keep the kids and possibly yourself occupied on long road trips, try turning off your various electronic devices once in a while and instead bring out the Auto Bingo travel game from Kids Love Travel. Each reusable game card requires the player to spot different items they might see on the journey, such as road signs, vehicle types (police car, fire truck, bus), buildings, animals and so on. And there's no need for tokens or messy markers to keep score as you simply slide a tinted plastic cover over the image. Choose from traffic safety, interstate and general-interest themes. A set of four Auto Bingo cards sells for $8 plus shipping. Order Auto Bingo at kidslovetravel.com.

Get an extension

If you frequently (or even occasionally) find yourself carrying building materials, carpeting or plumbing items that extend well past your truck's lowered tailgate, then you need help. The American Tail-Mate keeps these loads from resting on the tailgate, which potentially could cause damage to both your pickup and your precious cargo. The load extender attaches to any Class III hitch to provide up to 30 inches of additional bed length. In addition, the Tail-Mate's tubular beam can securely support up to 1,000 pounds of extra-long cargo that's up to 51-inches wide, while weighing less than 45 pounds. The American Tail-Mate sells for $300 and is available from a number of retail and online sources including ebay.com. For the full Tail-Mate story, go to truckcoversusa.com.

GT40 timepiece

The Ford Motor Company spent millions of dollars to develop a car that would beat Ferrari and become the first U.S. entry to win the yearly 24 Hours of Le Mans endurance race. In 1966 that goal was realized, with the Ford taking the top-three spots with its teams piloting GT40 racecars. To honor that nearly half-century-old event, California-based scale specialty-car maker Exoto has created the Anton Grey Mk II Sports Chronograph. Only 66 watches will be offered for sale, with each featuring the winning GT40's number (driven by New Zealand's Bruce McLaren and Chris Amon). Other features include a large 44-millimeter face and a black stitched leather strap. The Anton Grey sells for $7,800, or a scale replica of the winning GT40 is $1,000. Visit exoto.com.

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Example: $10,000 at 0% APR, monthly payment is $119.05/$138.89 for 84/72 months. Cost of borrowing is $0, total obligation is $10,000. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly/Bi-weekly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Monthly/Bi-weekly payments based on a purchase price of $17,536/$27,815 with $2,050/$2,995 down payment. ♦$4,000 is a manufacturer to dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) for 2014 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Ext. & Crew Cab and is reflected in offers in this advertisement. Other cash credits available on most models. See dealer for details. */▼/‡/♦/***Freight & PDI ($1,600/$1,600/$1,650), registration, air and tire levies and OMVIC fees included. Insurance, licence, PPSA, dealer fees and applicable taxes not included. Offers apply as indicated to 2014 new or demonstrator models of the vehicle equipped as described. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario Chevrolet Dealer Marketing Association area only (including Outaouais). Dealers are free to set individual prices. Quantities limited; dealer order or trade may be required. Limited time offers which may not be combined with other offers. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate offers in whole or in part at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. +Based on WardsAuto.com 2012 Upper Small segment, excluding Hybrid and Diesel powertrains. Standard 10 airbags, ABS, traction control and StabiliTrak®. ®Bluetooth is a registered trademark of Bluetooth SIG Inc. ♣Comparison based on 2013 Polk segmentation: Compact SUV and latest competitive data available and based on the maximum legroom available. Excludes other GM brands. ΔΔ2014 Cruze equipped with standard 1.8L EcoTec engine and 6-speed manual transmission. 2014 Equinox equipped with standard 2.4L EcoTec engine and 6-speed automatic transmission. 2014 Silverado 1500 equipped with standard 4.3L EcoTec3 V6 engine and 6-speed automatic transmission. Fuel consumption based on GM Testing in accordance with approved Transport Canada test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. ΔΔ2014 Silverado 1500 with the available 5.3L EcoTec3 V8 engine equipped with a 6-speed automatic transmission has a fuel consumption rating of 13.0L/100 km city, 8.7L/100 km highway and 11.0L/100 km combined 2WD and 13.3L/100 km city, 9.0L/100 km highway and 11.4L/100km combined 4WD. Ford F-150 with the 3.5L EcoBoost V6 engine has a fuel consumption rating of 12.9L/100 km city, 9.0L/100 km highway and 11.1L/100 km combined 2WD and 14.1L/100 km city, 9.6L/100 km highway and 12.1L/100 km combined 4WD. Fuel consumption based on GM Testing in accordance with approved Transport Canada test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. Comparison based on wardsauto.com 2013 Large Pickup segment and latest competitive data available. Excludes other GM vehicles. ♣When equipped with available 6.2L EcoTec3 V8 engine (available to order fall 2013). Class is Light-Duty Full-Size Pickups. ∞Requires 2WD Double or Crew Cab with available 6.2L EcoTec3 V8 engine and Max Trailering Package. Maximum trailer weight ratios are calculated assuming a base vehicle, except for any option(s) necessary to achieve the rating, plus driver. The weight of other optional equipment, passengers and cargo will reduce the maximum trailer weight your vehicle can tow. Comparison based on wardsauto.com 2013 Light-Duty Large Pickup segment and latest competitive data available. Excludes other GM vehicles. Class is Light-Duty Full-Size Pickups. ◊U.S. government 5-Star Safety Ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (safercar.gov). ††2014 Cruze LTZ, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies $28,489. 2014 Equinox LTZ FWD, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies $37,539. 2014 Traverse LTZ FWD, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies $48,289. 2014 Silverado 1500 LTZ Crew Cab 4WD, MSRP $51,379. Dealers are free to set individual prices. **The 2-Year Scheduled Lube-Oil-Filter Maintenance Program provides eligible customers in Canada, who have purchased, leased or financed a new eligible 2014 MY Chevrolet, Buick, or GMC vehicle (excluding Spark EV), with an ACDelco oil and filter change, in accordance with the oil life monitoring system and the Owner's Manual, for 2 years or 40,000 kms, whichever occurs first, with a limit of four (4) Lube-Oil-Filter services in total, performed at participating GM Dealers. 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Cost of borrowing is $0, total obligation is $25,595. Offer is unconditionally interest-free. Offers apply to qualified retail customers only. Limited time offer which may not be combined with certain other offers. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate offers in whole or in part at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. ¥Offer valid only to eligible retail lessees in Canada who have obtained credit approval by GM Financial, have entered into a lease agreement with GM Financial, and who accept delivery from January 3, 2014 through February 28, 2014 of a new eligible 2014 model. General Motors of Canada will pay the first month's lease payment; or first 2 bi-weekly lease payments (inclusive of taxes). After the first month, lessee will be required to make all remaining scheduled payments over the remaining term of the lease agreement. 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2014 Ram 1500 Crew Cab Laramie Limited (EcoDiesel) shown. Late availability.§

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
The full moon's influence will pull your emotions first one way then the other over the next 48 hours. So the safest course of action is to ignore them completely and act only on what your head tells you.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You would like nothing better than to turn your back on the past and start again but you know it isn't practical. Make the most of the situation you find yourself in. It's not that bad.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You may lose your temper with someone who lets you down. But don't feel bad about it because you are not the only one whose emotions are up in the air. Even Geminis get annoyed once in a while.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
What happens tomorrow, when the moon is full in your sign, may seem extreme. But who says life is fair? Others have the power to make the rules and you don't, so adapt.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You will fall out with someone today, most likely because you cannot agree on issues of a philosophical nature. Fortunately, you will also find it easy to make up and be friends again.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
As tomorrow's full moon cuts across one of the outspoken areas of your chart, you won't be tactful when dealing with people whose opinions you do not share. But why should you be when you are right?

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Are you in charge of your emotions or are they in charge of you? If you are honest, it will most likely be the latter. Whatever happens, don't let your fears damage your career.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The tensions in one area of your life have almost reached breaking point but that need not be as bad as it sounds. In fact, it could even be good if it clears away all the resentments you've been saving up these past few months.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Tomorrow's full moon makes it likely that you will clash with someone over money. But don't take it seriously because in a matter of days neither of you will be able to remember what it was all about.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Don't let your emotions get the better of you over the next few of days. Others can rush about like it's the end of the world but you will remain cool and with full self-control.

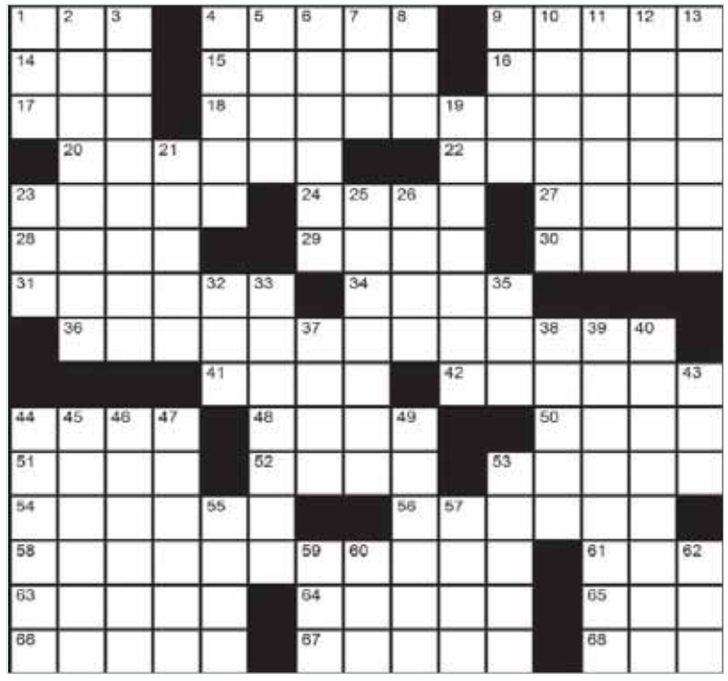
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You seem to be in a fighting mood but don't lose sight that while some things are worth fighting for, others are not. Pick your battles carefully and make sure your enemy is worthy.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
It will pay you to steer clear of touchy subjects over the next 48 hours. There are things going on that you disapprove of but will getting involved on an emotional level change anything? No. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

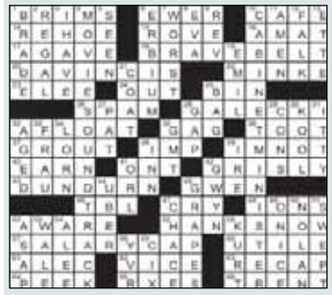
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Cooling device
4. Soldier date for Barbie: 2 wds.
9. Store areas [abbr.]
14. Author Mr. Levin
15. Wearer of the black tutu in Swan Lake
16. Love, in Venice
17. Montreal area, lettered
18. Origin for medical-grade marijuana: 2 wds.
20. Bean-yielding trees
22. Sheepish response to "Where'd that last piece of cake go?": 3 wds.
23. "Sheesh.": 2 wds.
24. Eden offspring
27. Ms. Sommer
28. Crying sounds
29. Songwriter, Jimmy __
30. Crate strip
31. Hamilton radio station, K-__ _ _
34. Ancient Greece's war god
36. 18-3224 __ __: Purple hue that is Pantone's 'Color of the Year' for 2014
41. And others, for short
42. Bug's midsection
44. Dress lines
48. Nautical ropes
50. Alone
51. Nursemaid
52. Mixture
53. __ Park (Thomas Edison's home/lab site in New Jersey)
54. Change a moniker
56. Ukraine port city
58. Type of police bust: 2 wds.
61. Sundial number
63. Like an omelet
64. Was resentful, __ _ grudge
65. __. _ (Julius Erving, to basketball fans)
66. Ms. Witherspoon
67. Bathroom cleanser
68. "Omigod!"

Down
1. In shape
2. Football-on-TV watcher, __ quarterback
3. Community in BC's Okanagan Valley
4. Middle East: __ Heights
5. Thought: Prefix
6. __ puzzle
7. 'Pay' suffix
8. Three-lettered fish
9. Olympic swimming great Ms. Torres
10. Overacts
11. Coastal city of BC, __ River
12. Three-horsed Russian carriage
13. Set of seven
19. Stage show collaborators, __ & Sullivan
21. Surveyed
23. Night flapper
25. 1964: "Ladies and gentlemen... The __!!!"
26. River of Spain
32. Giant's cry of disgust
33. 1497: John Cabot's ship, The __
35. Principal's employer, for short
37. Quebec water brand
38. Sprays
39. TV series that starred Canadian actor Raymond Burr
40. Canadian Senator/humanitarian, Romeo __
43. Tic-Tac-Toe line
44. Current PM
45. Arise
46. Horsemanship academy
47. Sunglasses
49. Sandbanks
53. Athlete's prize
55. Formed
57. "Thank You" songstress
59. Oilers org.
60. King: Spanish
62. Alphabetic trio

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

8		2		7		1	6	
	9	7						
			4					2
2		1	3					
7			6		1			3
					4	5		7
5					2			
						4	7	
	4	6		8		9		1

Yesterday's Sudoku

7	6	5	9	8	2	3	1	4
8	2	3	4	1	7	9	6	5
4	9	1	3	5	6	2	7	8
6	4	7	5	9	8	1	2	3
5	8	2	6	3	1	4	9	7
1	3	9	7	2	4	5	8	6
3	5	8	1	6	9	7	4	2
9	7	6	2	4	3	8	5	1
2	1	4	8	7	5	6	3	9

Today
-1°/-8°
Flurries
40%

Thursday
-3°/-7°
Variable
40%

Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
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2013 ACCENT 5 DR L

GLS model shown

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SELLING PRICE: $23,395♦
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2014 SANTA FE SPORT

Limited model shown

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5 YEAR†† WARRANTY

SELLING PRICE: $28,495♦
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5 YEAR WARRANTY
5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty††
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

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